

'Free for all' airline policy under fire

BA Heathrow flights move angers rivals

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to throw Heathrow open to all-comers have triggered an acrimonious dispute among airlines scrambling for the right to fly from the airport.

British Airways is seeking the freedom to switch all of its operations to Heathrow, angering rivals who fear that it is trying to seize every available take-off and landing slot there. Scheduled carriers who want to develop Heathrow services are also resisting moves by charter firms to run package holiday flights from London's premier airport.

The Civil Aviation Authority will now have to hold a series of hearings at which all sides will claim that the transport department's "free for all" policy is unworkable. With foreign airlines queuing to find space at Heathrow, pressure on the authority's scheduling committee is increasing daily. Many in the industry believe that the only way to solve the problems is for the transport secretary to order a complete review of aviation policy.

The government has ruled

that only two American airlines will be allowed to fly from Heathrow, but that has not satisfied British Airways. The airline has told the aviation authority that it wants to be able to transfer virtually its entire Gatwick operation to Heathrow should foreign carriers try to dominate the airport. That would mean flights to four American cities and several European destinations could be switched at a moment's notice.

The airline said: "Most of our licences from Gatwick specify that airport rather than London generally, and we are simply making technical moves to ensure that, should it be necessary, we would be able to choose between the two. There is no intention of moving these services, but should it become necessary, we want to have the mechanism in place to be able to do so quickly."

Rival British airlines see the move as an attempt to block all available slots at Heathrow and ensure BA's domination there. They have lodged formal objections with the aviation authority, demanding that British Airways be forced to retain its Gatwick operations to allow more space for others at Heathrow.

The smaller scheduled airlines are also opposing applications from eight charter companies who want to move into Heathrow. Virgin Atlantic's plans to switch many of its flights to Heathrow may be limited because of the lack of slots available, and other airlines have been prevented from expanding operations there because of the shortage of capacity. They say that newcomers should have to wait their turn.

Michael Bishop, the British Midland chairman, said yesterday: "We agree with the need to open up Heathrow, but we have many licences to fly scheduled services from there which we have been unable to take up because of a shortage of capacity. British scheduled carriers should be given priority, and others - whether they be charter airlines or foreign carriers - should join the queue."

The Virgin chairman, Richard Branson, is meeting the scheduling committee today to try to find gaps in the runway timetable so that he can begin services from

Heathrow in the next few months. But he is likely to win only a limited number of slots, threatening a deal under which British Midland would provide short-haul "feeder" passengers for Virgin's long-haul flights.

The acrimony between rival airlines has also spread to Gatwick, where Dan-Air has applied to take over seven key routes operated by the collapsed Air Europe. Just as scheduled carriers at Heathrow fear British Airways' dominance there, so smaller airlines at Gatwick are opposing Dan-Air's attempt to strengthen its position. They say they, too, should be allowed to compete for custom.

Dan-Air says it should be given all the Air Europe routes and be allowed to expand eventually into a further five countries so that it is strong enough to compete with foreign carriers flying from Gatwick. Peter Ryan, the chairman, said: "We shall be urging the authority to keep all the routes together. We do not believe that smaller airlines should be allowed to cherry-pick. One strong Gatwick-based carrier would be in the best interests of the United Kingdom."

British Airways is to launch a frequent flyer scheme, linked with its Air Miles promotion, under which passengers who regularly use the airline will be entitled to free trips.

From next month, long-haul Club World passengers will be entitled to claim 250 air miles and Club Europe members 150. The scheme is expected to attract 500,000 participants in the first year.



Bishop: charter firms should join the queue

Dan-Air warning, page 22



A fistful of dinars: Ahmed Behbehani, a Kuwaiti businessman, clutching 11,000 dinars yesterday as banks opened in Kuwait City for the first time since the Gulf war

Iraq says US plotting to seize its oil wealth

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU in NICOSIA AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER in DAMASCUS

THE Iraqi leadership, typically defiant despite the crushing defeat by the allies and an unprecedented rebellion within the country, yesterday condemned American proposals for a permanent Gulf war ceasefire as a plot to rob Iraq of its sovereignty and to seize its oil wealth.

The angry rejection came as a response to the bloody and protracted fight to overthrow President Saddam Hussein had reached Baghdad itself, forcing the Iraqi leader to seal off the capital and place it under a state of siege.

The Iraqi news agency published in full the 12-page ceasefire resolution drafted by the United States in order, it said, "to show the Arab people America's intention of robbing Iraq of its sovereignty and mortgaging its oil wealth."

The draft resolution, circulated to security council members last Thursday, calls for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, fixes the borders between Iraq and Kuwait, sets up a UN observer force and demands war reparations from Iraq's oil revenues. Even then, its tough provisions insist an arms embargo on Iraq will remain in place.

Saddam's Iraqi enemies painted a picture of him at the weekend covering in his headquarters under tight security after a failed military coup and hit-and-run raids by rebel fighters on Baghdad. He was reinforcing Baghdad with units of his loyal Republican Guards, who were the only people allowed in and out of the capital, according to Iraqi opposition groups based in Damascus.

"Following the rumours of a likely military coup, as well as possible attacks on Baghdad by popular forces, columns of the Iraqi presidential guard have been stationed in sensitive points around Saddam's headquarters," Iranian radio said. It reported that, according to a captured Iraqi officer, only 16 of Iraq's 40 divisions were said to remain intact.

One opposition group said that demonstrators took to the streets of Baghdad on Saturday calling for Saddam's resignation and condemning the formation of a new

government which mostly reshuffled old faces. "The demonstrators clashed with Republican Guards who were deployed in Baghdad streets in big numbers," said a spokesman for the Shia Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

The Islamic Action Group said rebel groups were gathering around Baghdad to launch an attack that would complement "the uprising currently raging inside the city", and Iranian radio quoted Kurdish rebels saying they would soon march on Baghdad.

Political efforts were underway yesterday to consolidate the early achievements of the uprising. Leaders of the 17 main Iraqi opposition groups which formed a loose alliance late last year have been invited to northern Iraq by the Kurdish leader, Massoud Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party, for talks which observers believe may lead to the formation of a provisional government.

At the same time, exiled leaders of two of the main Islamic groups left Syria for southern Iraq to help the rebellion there and try to coordinate it with that in the north, where anti-government fighters so far have made wider and more lasting gains.

With no foreign reporters in Baghdad, and with the credibility of some sources compromised by their support for the rebels, it has been impossible to confirm the extent and the intensity of the unrest in the Iraqi capital.

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Business as usual in the banks of Kuwait

From JAMIE DETTMER in KUWAIT CITY

THE crowd outside the main branch of the Bank of Kuwait in the city centre stood patiently yesterday awaiting their turn to join the long queues inside. Men clicked worry beads and women fiddled with gold jewellery and Cartier watches.

There was a happy buzz as the crowd savoured the moment, like children anticipating the taste of an ice cream. Yesterday, banks opened for the first time since liberation and exchanged old Kuwaiti dinar notes for new ones. Customers were allowed to draw up to 4,000 dinars (£680) per account. Once more there was life in the city's commercial centre. The streets were full of Mercedes, Chevrolets and Mustangs that had somehow been overlooked by pillaging Iraqis.

Inside the bank, staff struggled with full ledgers of computer print which had been sent from Saudi Arabia. Few computers were working, partly because of the lack of constant electricity and partly because some terminals had been stolen by fleeing Iraqis who had mistaken them for television sets.

Muhammad al-Yahya, the chief general manager of the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, said: "Like most banks, we managed to smuggle out the records before the Iraqis had settled in. In our case, staff got the mainframe out to Saudi Arabia. The record of the accounts are correct as of August 2." He said most customers were keen to withdraw the full amount permitted by the government. "They want to leave Kuwait and have a holiday. They are desperate to get out."

But at other banks, most customers seemed content to change piles of old notes for new and deposit them in their accounts. Muhammad Ismail Koushy, a businessman, said: "I am not going anywhere," as he handed thousands of new dinars to a teller at the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East. "I think business will come back as before. I will start my furnishing business as soon as I can."

The government had to introduce a new currency because the Iraqis stole large amounts of the old from banks. Where they could not break into vaults, cranes lifted them on to transporters headed for Baghdad.

Private buyers subsidise fleet cars

Kevin Eason on how company car discounts are pushing up prices for private buyers

Private car buyers are paying higher prices to subsidise discounts to company car fleets, according to an investigation carried out for the Retail Motor Industry Federation. The survey for the federation, which represents 13,000 garages and car dealers, found that some large rental fleets used their buying power to negotiate discounts with manufacturers of up to 40 per cent.

The survey discovered that a private buyer could be offered an average of £375 off a new car in the showroom at 1989 prices, including £100 from the manufacturer in the form of low interest finance or free insurance.

Discounts to private buyers added up to £650 million in 1989. But a company with between 25 and 100 cars in its fleet could expect average discounts of up to £1,140 a car, and a large fleet with more than 100 vehicles, about £1,365 a car.

Rental fleets were able to negotiate even better deals, being offered an average 29 per cent discount on each car, worth about £2,000.

The study will provide evidence for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) which is conducting an enquiry into allegations that car prices in Britain are as much as a third higher than in other European nations. The European Commission is carrying out its own investigation. The MMC will want to know why such large discounts are available to company fleet and rental firm buyers but not to private customers.

Malcolm Harbour and Professor Jonathan Brown, the report's authors, say that the special deals probably reduced the estimated £15 billion net value of new car sales in 1989 by 13.5 per cent to £12.97 billion. Of that, fleets accounted for 68 per cent of the discount reductions worth £1.38 billion.

Fleets buy more than half of all new cars annually in Britain.

FINE WRITING IN THE TIMES

ATTITUDES

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Sell-off hitch
The timing of a summer general election could disrupt the sell-off of ScottishPower and Scottish Hydro-Electric, the government's latest privatisation targets, which will run the entire Scottish power industry. Page 21

Soviet strike
Leaders of 300,000 striking Soviet miners have ignored appeals to return to work to pave the way for talks with Valentin Pavlov, the prime minister. Page 10

Senna victory
Ayrton Senna of Brazil held off a last-minute challenge from Riccardo Patrese of Italy to win the Brazilian Grand Prix. Page 34

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Clarke to dismiss advisers

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

EDUCATION ministers are planning to dismiss their advisers because they refuse to follow government guidelines. The decision was made this weekend when Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, described the advisers' latest proposals as "elaborate nonsense".

First in line will be the School Examinations and Assessment Council (Seac), quickly followed by the National Curriculum Council. They will be replaced by a single body overseeing examinations and school standards.

Education ministers believe that the existing government-appointed bodies are ignoring government requests in an attempt to please teachers,

and ending up offending both. Tests in maths and science, described by Mr Clarke as "elaborate nonsense... almost impossible to operate in the classroom", are still to be taken by 12,000 14-year-olds in 80 schools in 1991. Any changes to testing due to be introduced for all 4,000 secondary schools next year will be decided after the seven-week trial. But the council appears to be reluctant to meet Mr Clarke's request for short written tests set by all pupils at the same time.

Philip Halsey, the chairman and chief executive of Seac and former senior official in the education department, is facing growing criticism within Seac for what some

council members see as his refusal to listen to requests from the government. He meets senior Seac officials today to consider the final shape of the May tests.

Mr Clarke and his junior ministers are bitter in their criticism of the council, which costs around £15 million a year and which Mr Clarke claims damages the government's reforms by "complicating everything we do". They plan to scrap the present arrangements if they are returned to power after the next general election.

The attack on testing at 14 is only the latest in a series of Continued on page 20, col 6

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Enquiry likely into Salisbury close scheme

By JOHN YOUNG

THE government is now likely to call a public enquiry into the controversial scheme to build a new road through part of the cathedral close in Salisbury, the setting for Trollope's *Barchester Towers*. The Very Rev Hugh Dickinson, the beleaguered dean, who has been under verbal assault from local residents ever since the publication of a report last month by a *London firm of architects* and planners, is convinced the matter will have to be settled at an enquiry.

Last week the financial viability of the scheme, costing some £2.5 million, was called into question by John Kerruish, Canon Emrys of the cathedral, who pointed out that, although the appeal fund for repairs to the famous spire was still £1.5 million short of its target, the dean and chapter had spent £350,000 on the purchase of a house and an adjoining

orchard across which the road would run.

Mr Dickinson said any suggestion that money had been borrowed from the appeal fund to pay for the purchase was improper and defamatory. The money to pay for the house - contracts have been exchanged but not yet completed - would come from a totally separate property fund. He also denied that the purpose of the new road was to boost revenue from tourism.

A suggestion made in a leading article in *The Times* that he wanted to bring coachloads of elderly Americans into the close was not true. "We will never allow coaches in the close again," he said. The main purpose of the road was to allow the closure of the medieval gate which leads from the city into the close and which is at present used by through traffic. Last year the gate was badly

damaged by a lorry, although residents say it was a freak accident caused by a French driver who had lost his way and was trying to turn his vehicle in a narrow street.

Mr Dickinson pointed out that the new road was only one of four options put forward in the report. Although it was the one favoured by English Heritage and the Cathedral's Advisory Commission, no decision would be reached and no formal planning application submitted until after the fullest possible public consultation over the next few months. "We want to listen to all views," he said.

The objectors are sceptical. David Blissett, an architect whose wife, Rachel, Continued on page 20, col 3

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Hopes raised for first talks on Ulster in 10 years

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 14 months of negotiations the government is likely to announce an important step towards the first formal talks on Northern Ireland in almost 10 years.

The Ulster Unionist Party, regarded as the participant most likely to slow progress, gave strong signals at the weekend that it was prepared to continue with the initiative of Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary. A positive response from the ever-cautious Jim Molyneux, the unionist party leader, looked likely. This would enable Mr Brooke to make a statement in the Commons, probably on Wednesday.

Mr Brooke is expected to outline the basis of agreement between the parties inside Northern Ireland and between the British and Irish governments, that formal talks can go ahead. There is speculation that the three-phase process could begin by the end of April after locations and administrative matters have been settled.

Mr Brooke told the Commons on March 14 that he had circulated a document setting down "a sound basis for formal political talks". He gave each party to the process until Easter to respond, and ruled out further negotiation.

A swift enthusiastic response from the Irish government and a general expectation that the SDLP would follow suit put the spotlight on the unionists who

requested clarification on about 13 points.

These centred on the terms under which unionists might talk directly to the Irish government, the format of those talks, and reassurance that Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom was secure at the outset.

At the annual general meeting of the Ulster Unionist Council this weekend senior members of the Unionist party agreed privately that they would continue the process. There was also confidence that the Brooke initiative could produce a new order in Northern Ireland's affairs.

Observers said Mr Molyneux's keynote speech to the council was that of a man who had already decided he was going in but was trying to reassure his electorate that he would not talk himself out of the United Kingdom. He was applauded loudly when he said: "Whatever strands may be listed for negotiation, I must make this clear - the Union is not up for grabs. The Union is not up for auction."

Mr Molyneux warned the government that whatever devolved structures emerged from the talks, his party would not countenance "compulsory permanent coalition". He reiterated his long commitment to reversing what he called the "fatal message" of encouragement sent to the IRA when the government signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985.

Turbulent times for BA's lobbying operation

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE recent government decisions on air transport policy have signalled the failure of a British Airways lobbying operation renowned in Whitehall and Westminster for its success during the past decade.

Lord King, chairman of BA, is used to winning. As a result he was described by Tory and Labour MPs as "bruised" when he met them last week to discuss decisions to open up transatlantic air routes and transfer some Japanese routes to Richard Branson's Virgin Airlines. His recent setbacks have caused some MPs to question whether BA's normally persuasive lobbying tactics are becoming counter-productive.

Sir Robert McCrindle, a member of the Conservative backbench aviation committee, said: "For a long time the most important aspect of government aviation policy was the privatisation of BA and competition took second place, hence, some would argue, the demise of British Caledonian. Now competition and encouraging the entrepreneur are in favour, and as a result BA are not perhaps receiving the support of the government they have come to expect."

British Airways' attitude towards the transport department is bitter. A spokesman said: "We feel we have been got at by the transport department. It is blinkered because it is still trying to reinvent a second force concept in British aviation." The spokesman denied that BA had lost support among MPs.

Over the years BA has developed what one Labour MP described as a "comprehensive and efficient" lobbying system. It circulates MPs with papers on



Cool relations: Lord King and John Major after a meeting on Thursday - BA has always lobbied intensively

its attitude to aviation issues and keeps in close touch with backbench aviation committees. Lord King is known as a generous entertainer and holds lavish parties at Labour and Tory party annual conferences. The company also employs lobbyists to provide information on what is happening in Whitehall and Westminster.

Lord King also had a strong admirer in Margaret Thatcher though his blunt and abrasive style made him enemies in the transport

department. At least one source said that some of BA's activities had been marked by rudeness and offensiveness that eventually proved counter-productive. One Conservative MP said that Lord King's relations with John Major and Malcolm Rifkind were cooler than with Mrs Thatcher and previous transport secretaries.

While BA has a fully developed lobbying network in Westminster and Whitehall, Richard Branson's Virgin Airlines has hardly

bothered to develop one. Apart from flying Ted Heath to Baghdad, it has never offered MPs free flights and only in the past few weeks has it considered employing a lobbying company.

Mr Branson has been reluctant to address backbench MPs with aviation interests, preferring to put his arguments direct to the department. The recent decision by Mr Rifkind, however, have brought a sudden surge of interest from MPs who wish to meet Mr

Branson. A spokesman said: "Now that Virgin is being allowed to compete on a level playing field with BA the number of staff will treble and turnover rise to more than £1 billion in the next four years. We are going to have to address a wider audience, in Parliament, government and the aviation industry and we will look at our strategy. We will not go down the road taken by BA and do the scale of lobbying they have done over the last ten years."

T&G offer of £50,000 pay-off to reduce deficit

By TIM JONES
EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

OFFICERS and staff of the Transport and General Workers' union are being offered voluntary redundancy payments of up to £50,000 to reduce a rising deficit that now stands at £9 million.

The offer is part of a series of cost-cutting measures by the union, which is losing thousands of members a year as the recession causes widespread dismissals. Ron Todd, the union's general secretary, is hoping that 150 officers and 250 staff will be tempted to accept the offer, open to anyone over the age of 50. It provides for maximum payments of £30,000 or two years' final salary, whichever is greater.

Mr Todd has told staff that while the union, which has assets of more than £50 million, is not in dire financial straits, its staff of 488 officers and 867 staff must be trimmed to a level that it can sustain more easily.

The union's main problems have been caused by a slump in membership. In 1979, it had more than 2.2 million members; the total now stands at 1.24 million, although it is still Britain's biggest. One source said: "The staff numbers were built up to deal with a much bigger union and now, with falling membership, we have just too many people."

Those accepting the deal will still be entitled to their fixed-rate union mortgages, which range from 3.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent. They are also being offered "improved pension arrangements" and will be able to buy their cars, supplied by the union, at a reduced valuation.

As it struggles to balance its books, the union has introduced a tight regime in all its offices. The number of publications it produces has been reduced and non-essential trips are no longer sanctioned. In future, all new cars the union buys will be diesel engines to save running costs.

The union, which is one of the Labour party's main paymasters, has already taken a decision to reduce its contribution to the party by £300,000 to £1 million a year.

Briton killed in Australia

A murder enquiry has been launched in Australia after the body of a British quantity surveyor who emigrated last year was found drowned and weighted down with bricks in a lake north of Sydney (Michael Horsnell writes).

The body of Dominic Manson, aged 29, formerly of Baldock, Hertfordshire, was dragged from Lake Macquarie by fishermen last week. He had been battered about the head.

Yesterday the dead man's brother-in-law Steve Walsh, aged 35, of Hinchin, Hertfordshire, said: "The whole family is stunned."

Boy missing

Rescue teams were searching for a boy aged eight who was thought to have fallen 50ft into a ravine in North Wales, yesterday. The boy's parents alerted police after he vanished while walking in woods near Betws-y-Coed. An RAF helicopter went to the area but the crew abandoned the search because of poor visibility. Search parties feared the boy might have fallen into a river at the foot of the ravine.

Harrods case

Scotland Yard expects to hear shortly from the Director of Public Prosecutions whether charges should be brought against police officers alleged to have leaked a Department of Trade report on the takeover of the House of Fraser group, which owns Harrods. The report on the acquisition of Harrods by the Fayed brothers was leaked to Tony Rowland, head of Lomax, a defunct bidder for Fraser.

Armagh battle

British soldiers and gunmen believed to be from the IRA were involved in a gun battle in South Armagh yesterday evening, according to police sources. A British army patrol operating in the Cullyhanna area came under attack from a number of points. The soldiers returned fire but no one has claimed any hits. The police sources said the gun battle continued for a considerable time.

Irish path littered with failed initiatives

THE tortuous political history of Northern Ireland since the dissolution of Stormont 19 years ago, cautions against optimism about any initiative (Edward Gorman writes).

Experience suggests that the "Brooke Initiative" will, in the broadest sense, fail. There is a strong likelihood that at some point it will be killed by the quarrel between unionists and nationalists. Even if talks lead to new structures to govern Northern Ireland, these may be boycotted by one side, or emasculated by lack of political will. The politicians might agree on devolved structures, but

the proposals could be rejected by the province's people.

Many feel that there will never be a conventional solution to the Ulster conundrum. However, successive governments have tried approaches based on three principles: devolved government in Belfast, power sharing between Roman Catholics and Protestants, and recognition of a Dublin dimension.

The Brooke Initiative fits the pattern with its aim, expressed by Peter Brooke, of "workable and acceptable arrangements for the exercise of devolved powers". It aims for the creation of

democratic institutions giving "appropriate weight to both majority and minority aspirations and views" and incorporates what Mr Brooke called the "legitimate interest" of Dublin in Northern Ireland.

The initiative goes further than its predecessors, identifying three relationships, each to be the subject of talks: between parties in Northern Ireland, between London and Dublin and between Northern Ireland and Dublin. It also envisages the first direct talks between unionists and Dublin since 1973.

Borrowed ideas from which consumer can only benefit

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE most eye-catching item in John Major's personal credo for the 1990s was his promise of a citizens' charter offering guarantees of quality to customers of public services.

Speaking to a Conservative party audience in Southampton at the weekend, the prime minister hinted at the prospect of allowing rail commuters who were delayed by late trains to claim refunds on their season tickets, and hospital outpatients to claim compensation from consultants who failed to keep appointments.

Among the eyes that Mr Major's charter will have caught are those of Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal leader, and Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, for Mr Major has been engaging

in political cupboard-robbing. The proposals he set out to the Conservative Central Council bear a remarkable resemblance to plans already outlined by opposition parties.

Mr Major seems also to have drawn on a similar plan for "empowering" the consumers of public services, produced on the day of his speech by the Institute of Economic Affairs, a right-wing think-tank favoured by Margaret Thatcher. Concern with the quality of public services is now an election battleground.

In Southampton Mr Major pledged to dust out "the dustiest and darkest corners of public service". He suggested a comprehensive citizens' charter, saying: "People who

depend on public services - patients, passengers, parents, pupils, tenants, customers - all must know what they are entitled to and what services they have a right to expect."

The theme will be familiar to Mr Ashdown. In 1989 he published a book entitled *Citizen's Britain*, in which he set out the idea of guaranteed entitlements for each citizen who used public services, with providers forced to offer recompense where they fell down on the job. The Liberal Democrat policy paper, *Prescription for Health*, last year called for a patients' charter that would set maximum waiting times for hospital appointments.

Mr Gould will recall his party's document, *A Good Deal*, in which Labour promised "customer contracts" for residents reliant on council services. They were to be given a clear statement of the range, standard and quality of service they were entitled to expect, details of how it would be delivered, a firm timetable for dealing with complaints, and information on who to contact if things went wrong.

A more likely source of the prime minister's inspiration for his Southampton speech and an indication of how the threads are drawing together in British politics was the call on Saturday from the Institute of Economic Affairs. Graham Mather, its general director, called for the government to establish enforceable contracts with service providers.

Quality controls using both carrot and stick to improve efficiency in education, social security, health and transport are now to be given much attention in Whitehall and in the policy unit and will figure strongly in the Conservative election manifesto. With all the parties engaged in bidding up the competition, the consumer can only benefit.

Taking steps towards a citizens' charter

AT THE annual consumer congress in Belfast next month, the National Consumer Council, the government body which represents consumer interests, is expected to debate steps which could be taken towards fulfilling the prime minister's vision of a Britain in which quality comes first in public services and redress when it does not (Michael Horsnell writes).

Consumer groups were quick to praise John Major's conversion to the idea of more power to the elbow of the ordinary man, but there were few indications yesterday of the way in which he might proceed to fulfil his promise of a citizens' charter. There were signs, too, that institutions may not yet be ready to help. Among those bodies quick to respond to the idea of a written grant of rights was the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations,

which called for a parents' charter in the schools. The confederation wants the right of parents to form an association in every school to be enshrined in law.

The notion of a citizens' charter accords with the objectives of the National Consumer Council, which was established in 1975 to safeguard the interests of ordinary people seeking redress against public and private institutions. At its congress the council is expected to examine the lack of information available to people seeking redress and the training of those who should be giving advice.

Philip Circus, a member of the council, said: "A citizens' charter should be about what ordinary people can do to get justice in the market-place. Many of those from whom they seek redress are not user-friendly. A lot can be done to turn rights into reality."



Without a hitch: police cordon each other's belts to form a cordon in Trafalgar Square on Saturday and prevent protesters breaking away from an anti-poll tax march through central London. In the event, the belt-holding technique that is used to restrain crowds at mass demonstrations was not tested severely. Nearly 5,000 officers were

deployed to shepherd an estimated 12,000 people who joined the mainly good-natured march. There were only two arrests in the vicinity, one for theft and the other for drunk and disorderly behaviour. At last year's demonstration, more than 400 people were injured and there were 341 arrests as mob violence erupted around the square.

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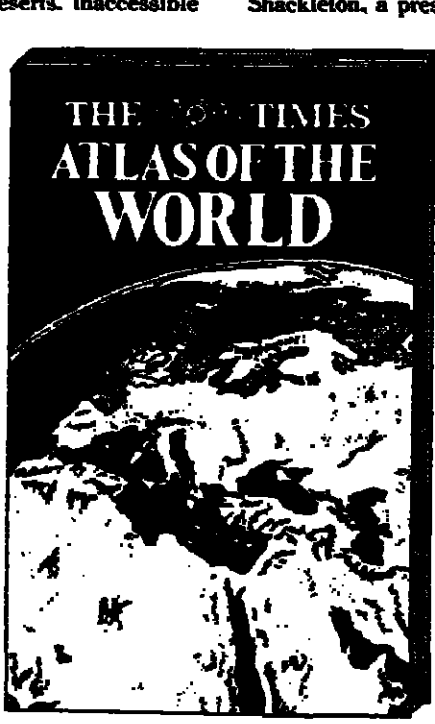
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Woman father her mail to Yen

By JOHN VINE

Two women married off their daughters to a man who had been given against his will a high court order to stop them from doing so. The women were from the village of Yen, in the north of China. The man, who was named as Yen, had been given a high court order to stop them from doing so. The women were from the village of Yen, in the north of China. The man, who was named as Yen, had been given a high court order to stop them from doing so.

Wales assembl

A Welsh assembly is being set up to oversee the devolution of powers to the Welsh people. The assembly will be made up of representatives from the Welsh people and will have the power to make laws for Wales. The assembly will be set up in 1992 and will be the first of its kind in the world. The Welsh people will have the right to elect members to the assembly and will have the power to remove them if they are not satisfied with their performance.

Writers' endorsement

The prime minister's new book, *The Road to Nowhere*, has been endorsed by a group of leading writers. The group, which includes Ian McEwan, Hilary Mantel, and others, has praised the book for its insight into the workings of the government and for its portrayal of the challenges facing the country. The endorsement is seen as a significant boost for the book and for the prime minister's efforts to engage with the public.

Woman sues father over her marriage to Yemeni

By JOHN VINCENT

ONE of two sisters married off by their father to Yemeni men has successfully sued him for false imprisonment. Judgment has been given against Yemeni-born Muthana Mubsen and a high court in Birmingham will decide tomorrow on damages.

The civil action follows the return to Britain of Zana Mubsen, now aged 26, after an international outcry and the intervention of the British government. Miss Mubsen's claim for damages alleged that in June 1980 her father persuaded her to travel from Birmingham to the Yemen with a family friend on the pretext that she was going for a short holiday.

On arrival, she said, the family friend detained her against her will in a form of marriage with his son until 1988. For eight years she had been forced to work in the fields and to cohabit with the son, Miss Mubsen, who was only 15 at the time, is expected to give an account of her ordeal tomorrow.

Her father admitted in November 1987 that he had married off Zana and her 14-year-old sister, Nadia, to the sons of two family friends without his daughters' knowledge. A secret ceremony had taken place in a house in Birmingham. Mr Mubsen, a fish and chip shop owner, also admitted telling his daughters they were visiting his homeland for a holiday.

The accusations embarrassed the Yemeni government and the foreign office, which had known about the girls since being approached

by their mother in 1980 but had done nothing, maintaining that the girls were Yemeni citizens by marriage.

Roy Hattersley, deputy Labour leader and MP for Birmingham, Sparkbrook, intervened in November 1987. Faced with the alternative of leaving behind their children or remaining in the Yemen, Zana Mubsen chose to fly back to Britain in April 1988, but Nadia remained.

West Midlands police investigated but the director of public prosecutions decided not to prosecute, saying there was insufficient evidence. Miss Mubsen was then granted legal aid to pursue civil action for damages for false imprisonment.

It has been claimed that both girls had to work in the fields around Mokbana, mountainous bandit country, until their labour pains began. Villagers had told them they could never return to Britain because under tribal law they must have their husbands' consent and that was unlikely to be granted.

Zana Mubsen said yesterday she was concerned for the welfare of her sister. "It was not easy to give up my son but, as a boy, he will have his freedom in the Yemen," she said.

"Nadia was told that her daughter, Tina, would be married when she reached the age of nine. She could not leave her behind to do that," Miss Mubsen said of the civil action. "We wanted it admitted that my father had done wrong, that he had even broken the laws of Islam."

Wales reviewing assembly scheme

THE idea of a Welsh assembly is back on the political agenda this week as Welsh county and district councils consider the response to the call by David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, for single-tier local government.

Two years after the people of Wales rejected an assembly in a referendum, the issue is being reassessed.

Many people who, like Neil Kinnock, voted against an assembly in 1979 believe that the time is now right for a regional council to be established in Cardiff to oversee policy-making in the principality. Wales's Labour-run county councils have been moving in this direction for some years, calling their joint meetings "the assembly of Welsh county councils". Many county council executives believe that an elected assembly is the natural progression from this.

Hugh Thomas, chief executive of Wales's largest county council, Mid-Glamorgan, said: "We welcome unitary authorities provided that they are linked to a directly-elected assembly. We will delegate our existing powers to the new unitary authorities when the assembly takes over managing the health service, further education and job creation in Wales." Mr Thomas says that he is heartened that Conservatives are beginning to voice support for the idea.

In the Commons on Thursday, Keith Raffan, Conservative MP for Delyn, asked Mr Hunt to establish an assembly, and Mr Hunt replied that he

had not ruled out the idea. The three opposition parties, which have been campaigning for an assembly, feel that its creation is now nearer than it has been for years.

However, John Phillips, the Dyfed chief executive, although welcoming the assembly proposal, says that education should remain with the unitary local authorities rather than with the regional council in Cardiff.

The unitary authorities would vary in size. Mr Thomas expects that, in Powys, the county council would become the unitary authority because the population is only 110,000, and, he says, the districts would be too small to be viable. In Dyfed and Gwynedd, pre-1974 counties such as Pembrokeshire and Anglesey are likely to run services. It is expected that large towns will want to run their own affairs.



Hunt: not ruling out assembly for Wales

Writers' cramp delays Major endorsement at the abbey

By WILLIAM CASE

THE prime minister's hopes of seeing Anthony Trollope, one of his favourite Victorian writers, enshrined in English literature's most exclusive club has met a hitch: Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey is full and the waiting list appears to have closed.

With tongues loosened by decanters of fine claret, the matter will be the subject of much serious table-talk at tonight's Trollope Society annual dinner, held at the Reform club in London. The society was founded in 1988 by Lord Rees-Mogg, with the single aim of publishing all 48 of the writer's novels in a single edition. The several thousand members include Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Young of Grafton and Norma Major, wife of the prime minister. John Major last week

endorsed the Trollope Society's campaign for Trollope to join Chaucer, Shakespeare and Dickens on the roll of literary honour by sending a private letter of support to the society. Mr Major wrote: "I wish you every success in your efforts to secure recognition for Trollope commensurate with the esteem in which he is held by his many readers."

But Michael Mayne, the Dean of Westminster, who is responsible for deciding such matters, has had to hang up a "no vacancy" sign on the marble-lined corner of the abbey. The niche is already crammed to bursting point with more than 100 memorials covering the floor and walls.

The Dean admits the episode is tricky and has suggested a possible solution in turning the win-

dow in the south transept, with room for 30 spaces, into a £25,000 memorial. However, if more room does become available, the task of deciding upon whom to bestow the laurels of immortality is likely to start acrimonious feuding among rival literary camps.

Controversy has traditionally accompanied the corner, which was founded in 1599 with the burial of Spenser, and the powers that be have often put on permanent hold applications from notorious literary figures. D.H. Lawrence was admitted only in 1985, more than half a century after his death, and Lord Byron was not allowed in until the 1960s. As a model 19th-century gentleman, Trollope should not fear the blackball.

Leading article, page 13



Wall power: women troops helping a colleague during the Courage trophy competition for London's Territorial Army units yesterday at Pirbright, Surrey

Firestone collection is sold for £6.1m

By JOHN SEAW

ELIZABETH Parke Firestone, wife of the eponymous tyre manufacturer, once remarked that collecting was "just like peanuts — once you've had one, you've got to have another". The result was one of the finest assemblies of French 18th-century decorative arts in America.

She died aged 93 last October, the last of a generation of great post-war collectors, and her tongue-in-cheek remark was recalled at the weekend when it all sold at Christie's in New York for £6.1 million. Much will be recrossing the Atlantic.

Porcelain was her great love and a Vincennes bleu lapis two-handled baluster vase, 12in high and made in 1755, went to a private European collector for £73,743. It was one of a pair that formerly belonged to Louis XV.

A portrait of Marchioness Wellesley by Vigée Le Brun (1755-1842) made the top price of £441,899 to Colnaghi's in New York.

It was followed by a Louis XV ornate-mounted black and gold lacquer commode stamped "J. Dubois JME" bought for £159,776 by Partridge Fine Arts, the London dealer. Approximately 55 per cent of the ceramics and 34 per cent of the furniture came back to Europe.

Only 30 lots remained unsold from the 1,000 on offer. A restored Spitfire IXe which saw action against the Luftwaffe over Italy in 1944 is expected to make up to £850,000 at Christie's next month. The fighter will be sold with a 30,000-word study of its wartime and civilian service.

Clarke prepares for revival of grammar schools

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, is planning to pave the way for a revival of grammar schools. He intends to scrap regulations that prevent grant-maintained schools changing their character for five years after opting out of council control.

The rule was introduced by Kenneth Baker, now home secretary, during the passage of the education reform bill to stifle Labour claims that the government was reviving selection by the back door. Mr Clarke said at the weekend that he could not see the point of the rule.

Hundreds of schools are expected to choose direct funding from Whitehall if the Conservatives win the next general election. Mr Clarke is working on ways of speeding up the change by streamlining ballot procedures and improving cash incentives. The issue is also at the heart of consultations on the structure, functions and financing of local government announced last week by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary.

He told reporters at the Conservative Central Council meeting in Southampton that he expected all secondary schools to become grant maintained over the next few years. Waiving the five-year rule would break the virtual monopoly over state education exercised by the comprehensive system.

Mr Clarke said he would not seek to impose a selective system of education under a package of reforms that seem

most likely to be set out in the Tory election manifesto. He said there was no sense in going back to the 11-plus.

He is, however, determined to inject greater diversity into the system. Mr Clarke said in his address to the conference: "We will develop a variety of state schools again to match a variety of parental choice and pupil temperaments." He has the backing of the prime minister, who said at Southampton that Mr Clarke was right to make more schools independent of council direction.

Under Mr Clarke's approach, decisions about the character of a school would be left to parents, governors and head teachers. They could choose to stick with the comprehensive formula, to introduce selection on academic grounds or to follow the so-called "magnet school" route and specialise in vocational or technical subjects, such as the performing arts.

Mr Clarke also indicated that the government is likely to drop its bill restoring national pay bargaining rights to teachers and their council employers. The measure has been stalled in the Commons for nearly two months after completing its committee stage.

Mr Clarke said that its lack of progress could be principally explained by the need to find new ways of improving the status of teachers and of rewarding good teachers.

Education, pages 26-7

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today
War Crimes bill's third reading in the Commons. Closure of RAF Bawdsey, Suffolk, home of radar. Nature Conservancy Council launches a report on Britain's estuaries. Balance of payment figures published. British Sociological Association Health and Society conference opens in Manchester. Two-day sale of classic registration numbers begins at Warwick university. HMS London and HMS Gloucester return from the Gulf to Plymouth.

Tomorrow
Delivery of the first Boeing Sentry early warning aircraft, RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire. MPs' committee reports on rain forest destruction. Royal Television Society dinner, BAFTA, London.

Wednesday
MPs debate no-confidence motion. Community Charges General Reductions bill in Lords. Confirmation of election of the new Archbishop of Canterbury at St Mary le Bow Church, London. Building societies issue monthly figures. Institute for Fiscal Studies budget conference, London. Royal Society of Chemistry 150th anniversary, London. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Glasgow.

Thursday
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend the Maundy service at Westminster Abbey.

Friday
The Pope leads Good Friday procession at Rome Colosseum. Pilgrims gather at Walsingham, Norfolk.

Saturday
National Union of Teachers conference in Scarborough.
Sunday
Clocks go forward one hour at 2am.

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Polls move Tory election thoughts on to October

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

A PUBLIC thumbs-down for the budget and a bleak reception for the government's outline plans for replacing the poll tax have left few ministers favouring a June election.

After digesting reactions at the Conservative Central Council meeting at Southport last Friday and Saturday and the lessons of the weekend opinion polls many of them feel that October is the earliest that John Major can hope to go to the country to seek a mandate.

The latest survey by Mori gave Labour a 6 per cent lead, its largest since Mr Major became prime minister. Three of the last four full national surveys have shown a Labour lead and there was further depressing news for the government yesterday in a NOP survey of marginal seats and in a Gallup telephone poll on the poll tax replacement.

The Gallup survey in the *Sunday Telegraph* showed that only 6 per cent were likely to vote Conservative as a result of the budget and the poll tax reform and 26 per cent (the same figure as in the NOP survey) said they were less likely to do so.

The electorate clearly takes a cynical view of the community charge review and the shakeup planned in local government. Only 10 per cent of the 505 adults questioned by Gallup last week believed that the government was mainly concerned with producing a better system of local government and finance while 77 per cent believed it was mainly concerned with improving its prospects of winning the next election.

Mori's questioning of 1,101 adults on Friday found support for the parties at Labour 44 per cent, Conservatives 38,

Liberal Democrats 15 and others 3. That is the biggest Labour lead since last December. It follows an ICM poll taken two days before which gave Labour a 3 per cent lead.

The NOP survey in 54 marginal seats published in the *Mail on Sunday* and showing party support for the Conservatives at 40 per cent, Labour 39, Liberal Democrats 17 and others 3, was presented as offering the government the prospect of election victory. It represents an improvement on the Conservative standing in those seats during the leadership contest last November when those questioned put their party support, on the basis of Mrs Thatcher remaining as leader, at Conservatives 36 per cent, Labour 48, Liberal Democrats 11 and others 5.

Tory strategists, however, will have noted that the latest NOP marginal poll still represents a swing of 4.5 per cent from Conservative to Labour since the last general election. Repeated at a general election that would see the Conservatives lose their overall majority and the formation of a hung parliament.

There is nothing in these poll figures to offer encouragement for the calling of an early election. The government has to battle to swing public opinion behind the community charge reforms when the consultative documents are published after Easter.

Labour's general election odds have been shortened by the bookmakers William Hill from 5-4 to 11-10. The Conservatives are 4-6 favourites with the Liberal Democrats at 80-1 from 100-1. Hill's are now making an October general election 6-4 favourite from 7-4.

Lamont delay 'cost taxpayers £200m'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, could have saved taxpayers more than £200 million if he had announced his plan to cut poll tax bills by £140 a fortnight ago, a local government expert said yesterday.

The government has said that it will meet the estimated £200 million cost of sending out new poll tax bills after Tuesday's decision to give community charge payers a £140 rebate. More than half of all local authorities had issued bills before the Budget announcement.

Ian Denholm, director of local government services at McDonnell Douglas Information Systems, which supplies computer systems to 50 local authorities, said: "This could have been done at virtually no cost to anyone. If we had been told about the change a fortnight ago we could have altered the figures before the bills were printed. Tons of stationary and hours of system time will have to be devoted to

getting the new bills out."

Mr Denholm warned Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, against allowing a long consultation period over the precise shape of the new property tax that will replace the community charge.

"If they really want the new tax to come into operation on April 1, 1993, they must recognise that it is a very tight timetable to prepare the software," it would take 12 months to develop new software and a further three months to test and install it in council finance offices. Computer firms would need detailed proposals by July or August at the latest, he said.

Mr Denholm's comments may alarm many council treasurers whose attempts to get poll tax collection off to a smooth start last April were frustrated by software breakdowns.

"The government's first efforts were rather ill-conceived and everyone paid the price for doing things at the last minute," he said.



Ward visit: Richard Nodley, urology surgeon, chats to a patient during his rounds at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford

Bright start for hospital facing new future

In the first of a series of occasional reports, Jill Sherman considers the prospects of a Surrey hospital, one of 57 that will opt out of local health authority control next week

THE Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford will open the doors tomorrow to its plush new maternity department, boasting carpeted single rooms, views of the cathedral, reproduction mahogany furniture. Television sets with videos are to be installed in each room and mothers will be able to choose à la carte from a food trolley instead of having to order their meals in advance.

In other parts of the 550-bed modern hospital, which treats more than 25,000 patients a year, the final touches are being made — dabs of paint and pot plants — to prepare for April 1 when the hospital opts out of local health authority control and becomes the Royal Surrey County Hospital and St Luke's Hospital Trust.

From then, this hospital and the 56 other hospitals and units becoming self-governing will have to raise their own income by selling services to health authorities, GPs who hold their own budgets and employers. They will compete, for price and quality, with hospitals directly managed by the NHS and private hospitals.

The trusts will have their own management boards and in theory will be able to run their own affairs, deciding where to expand or retract services and set their own salary conditions for staff.

The challenge for managers at the Royal Surrey County, which has been subject to severe financial cuts this year, will be to cover the overheads of its new hospital

block, phase two, and the spare capacity it now cannot afford to use, while still remaining competitive. Last year the hospital had to close 90 beds, including 40 per cent of surgical beds, in order to find savings of more than £1 million to stay within budget. One urology surgeon, Richard Nodley, wrote to *The Times* claiming that "my professional life has been destroyed" because the urology beds had been closed and his operations cut by a quarter.

As beds closed, waiting lists rose and morale fell. One ward was converted into a private ward and another into a five-day ward. Managers say there could be more than 100 beds, including 60 in phase two, which the hospital cannot afford to open this year unless it can attract more money.

The hospital has had a chequered past. Building started in 1974 but the health authority could not afford to open it until 1981 because of spending cuts. The transfer of services such as radiotherapy and pathology from St Luke's, a former workhouse infirmary which is largely dilapidated, has still not been completed.

Michael Forster, the chief executive of the new trust,

saw trust status as an opportunity to get all acute services on the Royal Surrey County site without having to plough through extensive bureaucracy. "We felt we would be better placed in the longer term if we had control of our own destiny," he says. However, the medical staff, already concerned about the bed closures, was not so sure. A ballot showed that 60 per cent of the consultants were against the scheme and other staff groups also expressed opposition.

Managers pursued the application, claiming the vote had been taken against a background of cuts and a combative health secretary (then Kenneth Clarke). New financial systems were set up to help cost contracts, but the trust had still not found a financial director 11 days before opting out. Precise costs are still not clear and most contracts negotiated so far have been based on the "average costs in the district."

Mr Forster says the hospital will need about £40 million including capital charges and inflation, to cover its present costs and it still does not know whether it will achieve this. The local district health authority, South West Surrey, plans to refer £21 million of business, while neigh-

bouring districts and regions, who account for 27 per cent of the trust's workload, have pledged more than £9 million. Income generation schemes, including shops, renting out halls and rooms, a cafe and crèche facilities, will raise further cash.

The hospital is finalising arrangements with three GP fund holders who now have budgets to cover hospital care. One of the practices has already said it will send some patients elsewhere. "How can a GP who does not come into a hospital make an assessment of the worth of what he is buying for his patient?" argues Mr Nodley, now the trust's medical director. "If we are to avoid a cost-driven service it is vitally important that GPs and patients see this as a drive to improve patient care."

GP fund holders are setting tight criteria on quality standards, which they claim the Royal Surrey County will not meet. David Williams,

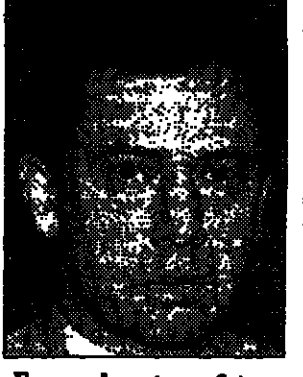
senior partner at East Horsley medical centre, is demanding out-patient appointments within six to nine months. "We are not going to just simply hand over the money. We are going to shop around in terms of quality. We have found it very difficult to get proper information from the Royal Surrey."

In response, the Royal Surrey says some of the conditions are unrealistic. "They cannot expect us to change overnight and introduce new standards which are way above anything which we have provided before," said George Howd, the trust's chairman.

Mr Nodley believes life will be better once the hospital has been rid of the shackles of the district's control. The hospital will maintain its high reputation for some medical specialities while expanding others, such as ophthalmology, joint replacements and renal services. But the hospital's problems will not disappear overnight, he says.

"My main fear is that the system has got sufficiently run down by last year's problems based upon foolish reliance on non-recurring money that we are too far down the slope to fight our way back."

Mr Forster is less pessimistic. "The hospital's long-term future looks good. We will be a centre of excellence, we will expand to provide regional specialities, and with a new block opened we are in an ideal position to attract referrals."



Forster: long-term future of the hospital looks good

Peers seek a £12m boost for science spending

By JOHN WINDER

A SHORTAGE of government funds is threatening the development of British science, a House of Lords committee said in a report published yesterday. The select committee on science and technology calls for £12 million to be added to the 1991-2 science budget.

The report directly contradicts what Kenneth Clarke, the education and science secretary, told the committee in evidence a few days earlier.

In its call for extra money for research councils, the committee, headed by Lord Flowers, a distinguished scientist, said that hasty measures forced on the councils had affected new projects, grants and studentships and threatened the "very seedcorn" of the science base.

The peers said: "It is inconceivable to us that a whole area of United Kingdom science should have to be precipitately abandoned as part of a series of crisis measures, and we roundly condemn the practices and policies which have put so much at risk — whatever the excuse."

The report identified three main reasons for the shortfall of money. The first was that while long-term research council spending had risen by 23 per cent in real terms since 1981-2 (the government's claim) other valid assessments showed that government spending on the science budget had barely risen and that if Universities Funding Council spending were included, the situation was much worse. "There is no fat left in the system to absorb or disguise the present crisis," the peers said.

The second reason was insufficient allowance for inflation. This, the peers said, was much higher than had been calculated when allocations were made and, even accepting "Treasury logic" of 6 per cent inflation, research councils found their cost increases, especially wages, to be much higher. Mr Clarke told the committee that the science budget of about £1.6 billion a year was keeping pace with inflation and had increased in real terms each year under the Conservative government.

The third reason given for the shortfall was that a large element of the settlement, £23.3 million available for general expenditure from two capital projects, had been considered by the research councils to be already within the baseline of expenditure and had been committed.

The committee said that the £12 million that it suggested should not be seen as another temporary expedient but should provide a period of grace in which the government could review its spending policy for science. The peers said that the strategic look at science ordered last month by John Major should cover budgetary problems.

The committee described a Department of Education and Science decision to stop publishing advice given to the government by the Advisory Board for Research Councils as a "spectacular own goal."

Science Budget 1991-92 (House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology, Stationery Office, £6.50).

Cook laments property interests on opt-out boards

SELF-GOVERNING NHS hospitals will be run by an alarming number of property developers, the shadow health secretary, Robin Cook, said yesterday. Property development, he said, was the largest single business interest of members appointed to the boards of the 57 hospitals and units opting out of local authority control.

With hospitals under pressure to sell surplus land, he asked: "Is the NHS safe in the hands of estate agents?" His survey of more than 300 NHS trust chairmen and non-executive directors showed all the new boards contained a clear majority of people from a business background.

Most of those appointed had no experience of the NHS and few represented the local community. Of 312 appointments only 10 were serving councillors, and eight of these

were Conservatives. "Ministers have again shown that for them the ability to read a balance sheet is the only important qualification to run the health service," he said.

William Waldegrave, health secretary, said: "Given that NHS trusts are dealing with millions of pounds of public money, there is absolutely nothing wrong with businessmen being involved to ensure the tax-

payors get value for money," he said. "The suggestion that property developers on trusts represent a conflict of interests is nonsense. There are strict rules which govern conflict of interest."

Mr Cook's comments did not specifically relate to the trust governing the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, or to any of its management board members.

Firms to b first sect

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS has today voted to support a bill which would allow firms to be the first to be selected for the new 'first sector' of the economy.

Employer fail on equal pay

EMPLOYERS who fail to pay their workers the same as men for the same work will be liable to a fine of up to £5,000, the House of Commons has today decided.

The new law, which will come into force in April, will allow women to sue their employers for failing to pay them the same as men for the same work. The law will also allow women to sue their employers for failing to pay them the same as men for the same work.

The new law will also allow women to sue their employers for failing to pay them the same as men for the same work. The law will also allow women to sue their employers for failing to pay them the same as men for the same work.

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Foster: "Women must be guaranteed equal pay"

Police from this force yesterday raided a house and a garage in Brixton, London, and seized a large quantity of stolen goods.

Police, who said that the seized goods included a large quantity of stolen goods, said they had been reported for sale.

Rushdie divorce
Salman Rushdie, the novelist, has today filed for divorce from his wife, Shireen.

Kidnap case
Six men are due in court today after the kidnapping of a young woman in Brixton.

PC killed
An off-duty policeman was today shot and killed by a car thief in Brixton.

Parrots stolen
A pair of double yellow headed Amazon parrots, one of only two pairs in Britain, was stolen from a house in Brixton.

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	£25,000	13.00%
	£10,000	12.50%
GULFNEY GROSS INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT	£100,000	13.25%
	£25,000	12.75%
	£10,000	11.00%
	£1	10.50%



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Detectives return to Wimpey

FRAUD squad detectives returned yesterday to offices of the construction firm Wimpey in Hammersmith, west London, and Salford, Greater Manchester, which they raided on Saturday in connection with alleged corrupt land deals on Merseyside (Peter Victor writes).

A spokesman for the company confirmed that police had taken away material. The raids on the company's offices were carried out after consultations between the police and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Twenty-three people, including Derek Hatton, former deputy leader of Liverpool city council, were arrested in October last year after repeated reports of Mr Hatton's alleged involvement in illegal council land deals. Mr Hatton, aged 42, is due to answer bail at Liverpool's Stanley Road police station today.

Merseyside police had consulted the Fraud Investigation Group before carrying out the raids, a spokesman said. Wimpey described the detectives' action as "inconceivable" because it had offered the police its full cooperation. The company added that its staff were on the premises to assist the police.

Mansion mystery deepens

MICHAEL Heseltine, environment secretary, has come under renewed pressure to solve the mystery surrounding ownership of one of the finest Georgian mansions in Britain, (John Shaw writes).

He told the Commons in November 1981 that Heveningham Hall, near Halesworth, Suffolk, had been sold to Abdul al-Ghazzi, an Iraqi businessman, who died suddenly on March 8. Conservatives wrote to the minister demanding that the owner of the hall be revealed.

Ian Richardson, co-ordinator of the Heveningham Action Group, said it had been trying for four years to find out who owned the house. Three years ago the group heard that the owner was a Swiss company called ID Investment Development AG. Its solicitor said he did not know the owner but said Mr al-Ghazzi was merely the owner's "associate or representative".

Restoration work at the hall, hampered by a fire and theft, has taken longer than the hall took to build. Under the terms of the sale the government has first refusal on any resale within ten years. That condition expires in August.

Doubts on cholesterol drive

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE cost and effectiveness of any national programme to reduce cholesterol levels remain uncertain, according to a report published today by the Office of Health Economics.

While it is known that an elevated level of cholesterol in the bloodstream is one of the risk factors in heart disease, it is not yet clear that widespread screening programmes to measure levels, and diets and drugs designed to reduce them, would be justifiable.

The author of the report, Bernie O'Brien of the Health Economics Research Group at Brunel University, says a national campaign, aimed at people aged between 40 and 69, would cost £19 million a year for testing, £8 million for dietary counselling, and £241 million for drugs, according to figures from the Standing Medical Advisory Committee. In human terms the cost would be £3,128 a year of life gained.

If present guidelines on cholesterol and heart disease were accepted, Mr O'Brien says, nearly a fifth of the adult population would be placed on cholesterol-lowering diets. About one twentieth would be on drugs, some of them for the rest of their lives. The report, *Cholesterol and Coronary Heart Disease*, cautions against over-enthusiasm for

treatment based only on measurements of cholesterol. Doctors should remember that heart disease is caused by many factors, of which cholesterol is only one. In a foreword to the report, Anthony Winder, of the Royal Free Hospital, London, suggests that the American preoccu-

tion with cholesterol may be naive, creating unreasonable expectations of the potential benefits of reducing it.

At present, the advice to doctors in Britain is to measure cholesterol levels only in patients with risk factors of smoking and high blood pressure.

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Firms prepare to bid for first private sector jail

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office has identified 12 companies and consortia that are seriously interested in becoming Britain's first private sector jail operators. It has been disclosed. Seven or eight of the firms will be invited over the next fortnight to bid for a contract to run the Wolds, a remand centre near Hull due to open in April 1992. The Home Office has still to decide whether its prison department should submit a tender.

An insight into the approach that might be adopted by a private sector operator was given by Contract Prisons, one of several consortia formed specifically to bid for the contract. The consortium said that the vast majority of the Wolds' staff would be recruited from outside the Home Office if it were to run the prison. Manning levels, however, would not be markedly lower than in a similar public sector centre.

A director of Contract Prisons, Robert Freeman, said the consortium would aim to provide a higher, more consistent level of service rather than reduce costs for the taxpayer. "I really don't think this is the sort of thing that the private sector wants to do on the cheap. In fact, it would be immoral to do so," he said.

Neither would the remand centre be run like some privatised American jails, with minimal staff and security maintained largely through banks of video monitors. Mr Freeman said: "We believe very strongly that supervision should be achieved by people on landings rather than by cameras or guards in watch-towers."

Contract Prisons is an amalgam of Babcock International, Rascal Chubb and the US private jail operator Pricor. Several other contenders also have links with US firms, including UK Detention Services which comprises the builders John Mowlem and Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons and the Corrections Corporation of America.

It is believed that none of the prospective private operators plans to poach large numbers of staff from the prison department. They think it will be easier to agree efficient working practices with staff from outside the Prison Officers' Association and the Prison Governors' Association, which are opposed to privately run jails. They also hope that the policy will encourage innovative thinking, particularly in how to improve regimes for remand inmates.

The POA and the PGA believe that contracting out jails is obvious in principle and will lead to lower standards, more escapes and greater jail instability. They have told the government that their members would not help a commercial jail operator if there was a serious riot at such a prison. A government amendment to the criminal justice bill proposes that the Home Office should have the right to draft in a "Crown servant" to run a privately managed jail which has lost control of its inmates.

The department said the contract would last between five and seven years and would be subject to rigorous quality monitoring. Ministers are keen to contract out the running of some jails holding sentenced prisoners if it is successful. The Wolds will hold 300 adult male inmates, with security classifications up to and including category B, the second highest.

Employers fail on equal pay

EMPLOYERS continue to discriminate against women workers, two reports published today suggest (Tim Jones writes).

One of the reports, a survey conducted for the Equal Opportunities Commission, shows that few employers have ever tried to assess whether their practices conform to legislation on equal pay for work of equal value. *Pay and Gender in Britain* highlights a number of areas where such failure has meant little progress towards closing the earnings gap between men and women.

The survey shows that men and women are often grouped in different pay structures, reflecting the continuing job segregation in the labour market. Even where women are in the same pay structure, they are often in the lower grades.

Joanna Foster, chairman of the EOC, said: "To ensure real economic independence, women must be guaranteed equal pay throughout their working lives. This survey strengthens our hand in calling for simpler and stronger laws to challenge the deep-rooted discrimination in pay."

The other report, by the European Parliamentary Labour Party on the rights of part-time and temporary workers in the EC, says that British women get the worst deal in Europe from their employers. Christine Crawley, Labour MEP for Birmingham East, said that British part-time workers were being cheated of rights that were taken for granted elsewhere.



Foster: "Women must be guaranteed equal pay"

Police foil party

Police from three forces yesterday turned hundreds of revellers away from an acid house party. West Yorkshire officers raided a disused warehouse in Bradford just before 3am as borders of youngsters queued to enter. Officers in the Greater Manchester and Humberside forces ran road checks to stop convoys of cars carrying hundreds of people to the event via the M62.

Police, who said that the building had been broken into, seized sound equipment and rottweiler and alsatian dogs. Two men have been reported for public order offences.

Rushdie divorce

Salman Rushdie, the novelist facing a Muslim death threat over his book *The Satanic Verses*, and his wife, Marina, are to divorce, it was reported. She is quoted as saying: "He is a complete stranger to me now."

Kidnap case

Six men are due in court at Bournemouth, Hampshire, today after the kidnapping at gunpoint of Paul Welch, aged 24, and his wife Janet from their flat in the town.

PC killed

An off-duty policeman who was run over while trying to stop a car being stolen died yesterday. PC Duncan Clift, aged 27, based at Tonbridge, Kent, was hit while visiting Hexham, Northumberland.

Parrots stolen

A pair of double yellow-headed Amazon parrots, one of only two pairs in Britain, was stolen in a £6,000 theft of birds from Linton Zoo, Cambridgeshire, yesterday.

Shows go on

The Liverpool Playhouse, threatened with closure, has been given a temporary reprieve. A rescue package from five local authorities will finance it for 12 months.

Girl shot

Andrea Grestorex, aged 17, yesterday underwent life-saving surgery after being shot while waiting to use a public telephone at Bestwood, Nottingham. Police believe that she was shot from a passing car or bus.

Angler dies

Neil Belden, aged 35, of Islington, Cambridgeshire, was electrocuted when his angling line became entangled in overhead wires by the Fines River, Co Cavan, in the Irish republic.

Bond winners

National Savings Premium Bonds prize draw winners: £100,000, bond number 11RF 564344, winner lives in Warrington; £50,000, 252N 865568 (Bournemouth); £25,000, 122P 545671 (Stevenage).

London police try out an easy rider

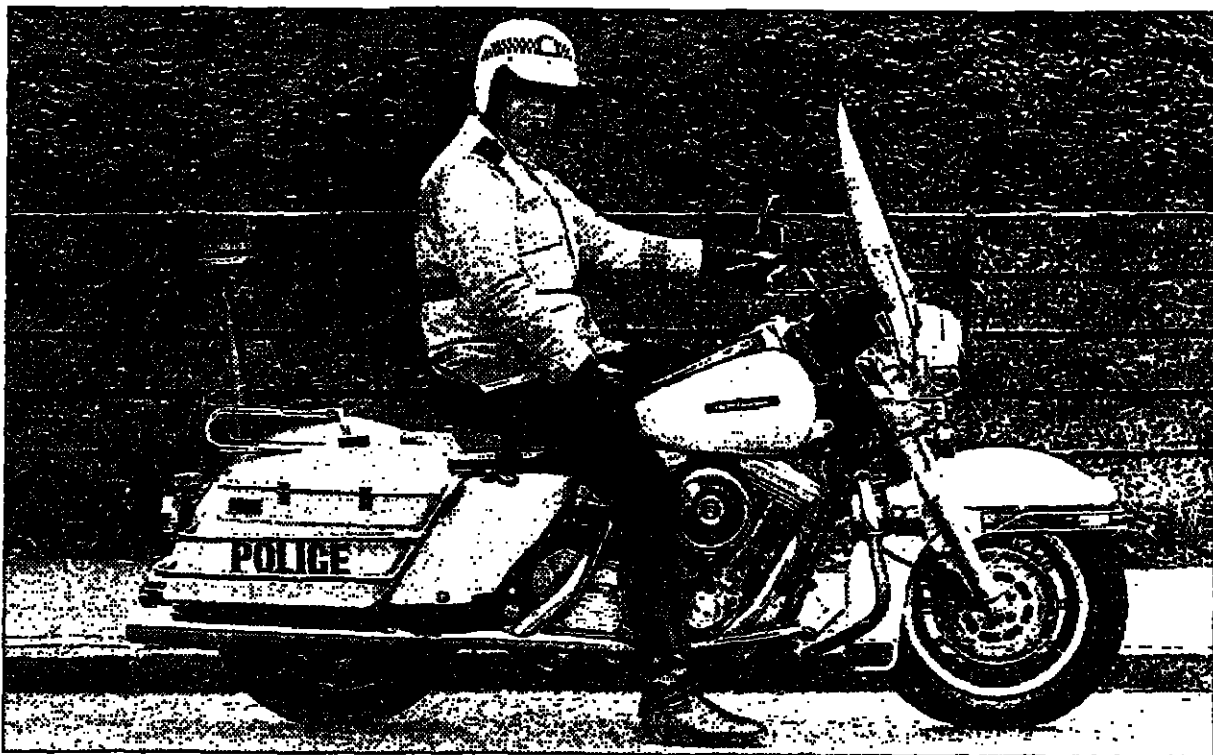
By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE style is pure *Easy Rider*, a throwback to chewing gum, tattoos and tatted leather jackets.

The Harley-Davidson is as American as baseball and blueberry pie, yet could become a familiar sight on the streets of London during the rush-hour if the motor cycle stands up to tests being carried out by the Metropolitan Police.

Scotland Yard has put on trial a Harley, ridden (right) by Scott Walker of the Bow Traffic Division, to find out whether the 1,375cc machine is suitable not only for cruising the wide open highways of the United States, but also for patrolling the stop-start traffic queues of London.

The Harley, however, is already a traffic stopper, simply because it attracts so much attention from passers-by who associate the unmistakable shape with a long line of film credits. Harley-Davidson has provided the wheels for film



tough guys since 1957, when the model was first introduced. The motor cycle immediately became a 1960s cult machine when Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda (bottom right) sat astride the low-slung saddle and small petrol tank as they travelled across America in the 1969 film *Easy Rider*.

Now the film stars ride Harleys off the set as well as on it, while the motorcycle is also standard issue in most

American police forces. The police test might not please "Buy British" campaigners, who would prefer London's police to patrol on motor-cycles made in the United Kingdom.

Since the British motor cycle industry collapsed in the 1960s, only Norton has survived to provide competition for the Harley-Davidson, and the Metropolitan Police currently use German-made BMWs.



Farmer becomes a father at 83

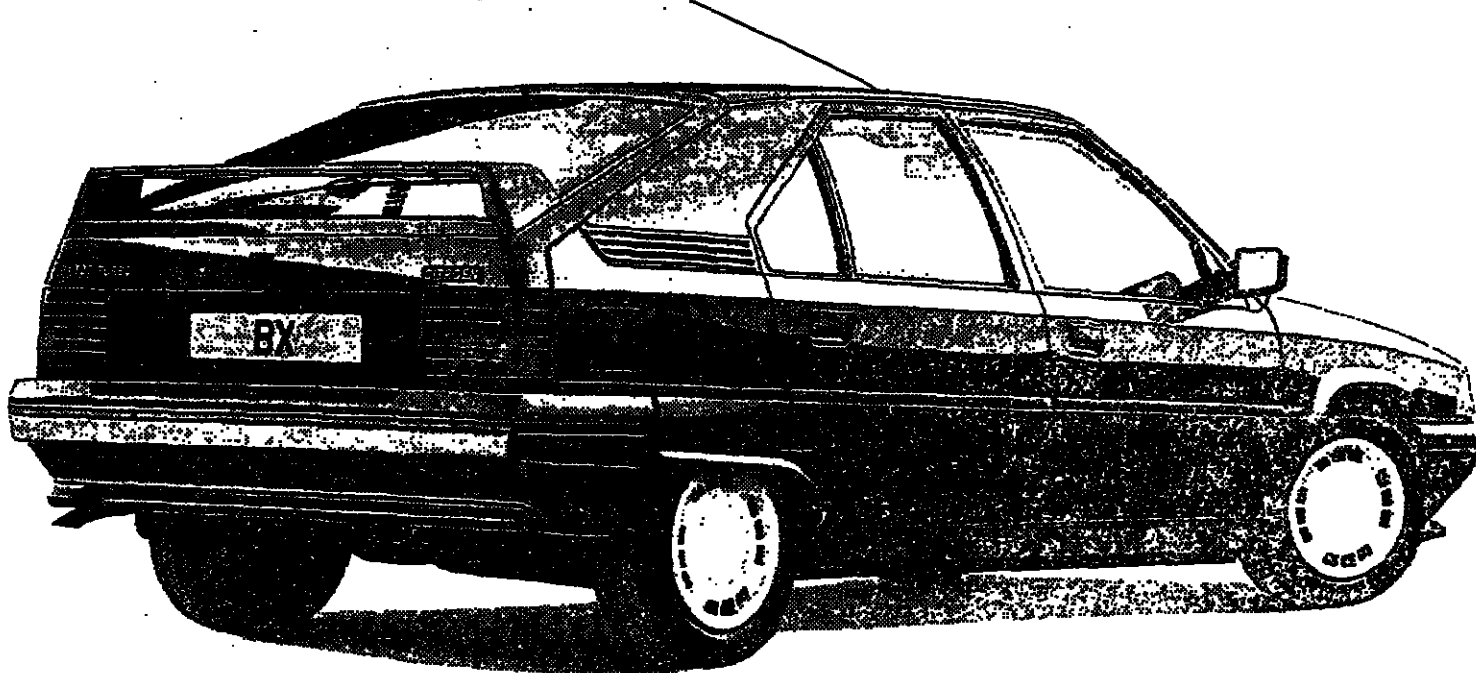
A RETIRED farmer who has become a father at the age of 83, yesterday described the lifestyle that helped him to produce a child at an age when most men are thankful simply to be alive.

Ian MacMaster, whose wife Wendy, aged 38, gave birth to Elinor Patricia, at Cresswell Maternity Hospital, Dumfries, in January, said: "I'm a natural communicator and I keep a lively interest in everything that's going on." He believes in "moderation in all things... and a couple of glasses of wine a day."

Mr MacMaster, who attended the birth, said he was not planning to have any more children. "Our daughter is wonderful. We're very happy and our family is now complete," he said at the family home in Stoneykirk, near Stranraer.

Mr MacMaster, a former local councillor who was widowed in 1980, has a daughter, Helen, aged 39, by his first wife. He married Wendy seven years ago. They planned to have children immediately but Mr MacMaster had a heart attack in 1986 and his wife had a miscarriage two years later.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO BUY A DIESEL.



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As the costs of running a car become harder to ignore, so too do the advantages of diesel.

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Citroën BX 17TGD, which, at a cost of just 20.1 pence per mile, is the most economical car in its class.

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March 31st, you will avoid the VAT increase and get the benefit of the budget without paying the price.

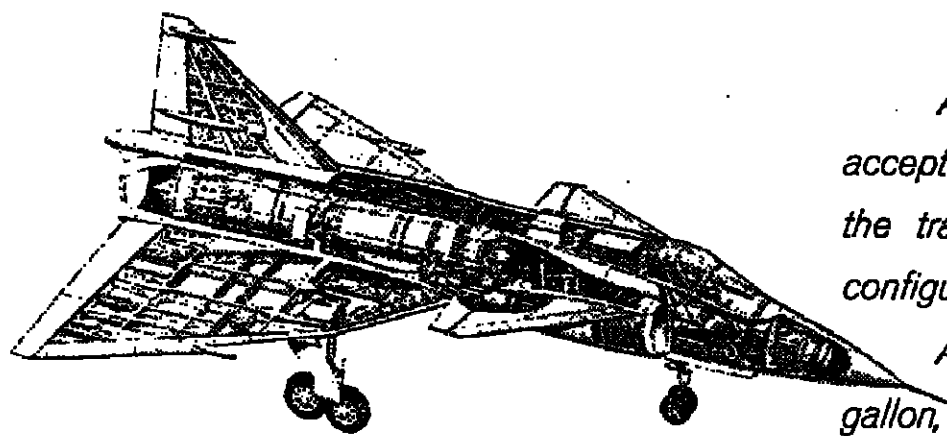
To find out more about the Citroën BX Diesel range, please phone free on 0800 282 282 or return the coupon to: Dept. TIM 230, Citroën UK Ltd, Freeport, London N4 1BR.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms	Initials
Surname	
Address	
Postcode	
Current car make	Model
Registration letter	Petrol <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/>
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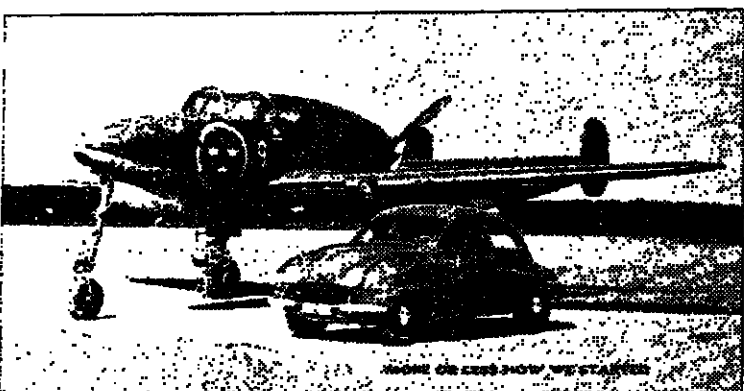
WHY LESS

Nothing on the road today could be less like a car than a Saab.

'Saab' by the way, was originally an acronym for Swedish Aircraft Co. Ltd.

The forerunners of today's generation of Saabs started life as no more than a blank sheet of paper.

As you might have guessed, the initial designers were all aeronautical engineers.



Although hardly a single member of the team held a driver's licence, what they did have was a unique vision of what they thought a car really should be.

The blueprint they were able to lay down for the future was therefore mercifully free of prejudice and the normal stifling, inward-looking car thinking.

In aircraft design there are no margins for error; form follows function.

As a consequence, less becomes more.

With more torque than a Ferrari 348 it was as quick from 50-70 mph in fifth as any production car on sale that we have tested.

This aircraft inspired, lateral approach to car design and construction resulted in many notable firsts for Saab. Heated seats, headlamp wash/wipe, turbo-charging and the proper use of aerodynamics.

...never did we imagine that it could make a Sierra Cosworth look like a lame duck.

Today, ample proof of Saab's 'less is more' philosophy can be experienced in Saab's all new 2.3 Turbo power plant.

A stunning piece of machinery that's made exotic performance cars look lack-lustre and has the motoring press praising it to the high heavens.

All this from less than the normally accepted number of cylinders. Four rather than the traditionally heavier, thirstier, six cylinder configuration.

As well as delivering more miles per gallon, this unit produces less toxic emissions even before the catalytic convertor (fitted as standard) comes into the equation.

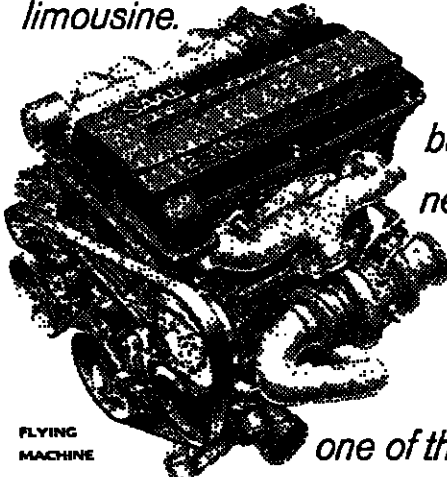
Although this engine produces no less than a mighty 200bhp, this has more to do with safety than machismo.

... this big four is so smooth and well-balanced it performs just as silkily as its six-cylinder rivals.

0-60 in 7.5 secs certainly isn't slow, but the critical power is kept in reserve for when you need it most.

Overtaking, for instance.

But for all its sheer power, this beauty has the smoothness and manners of a luxury limousine.



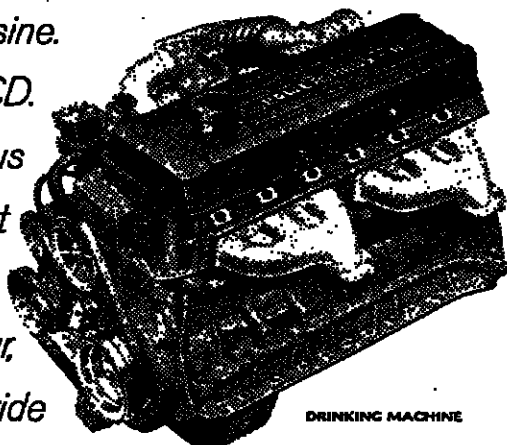
(Saab's ingenious balancer shafts, which neatly offset vibration and centrifugal imbalance see to that.)

FLYING MACHINE

So not surprisingly one of the places this engine undoubtedly feels most at home is in our very own luxury limousine.

The Saab CD.

A sumptuous interior will cosset and cocoon you and your chauffeur, whilst its overall ride



DRINKING MACHINE

and handling characteristics will keep your Mont Blanc flowing uninterrupted across contracts and crosswords alike.

Not only does it offer significantly more performance than its 10 six-cylinder rivals, it also offers better-than-class-average levels of smoothness, lugging power, refinement and, in normal circumstances, economy.

(It's aircraft-inspired body shape makes this one of the most stable vehicles in crosswinds.) However, most Saab owners like to pilot this craft themselves.

Crisp, sportslike handling, unrivalled acceleration and unimpeachable roadholding make the CD one of the most responsive cars of its kind.

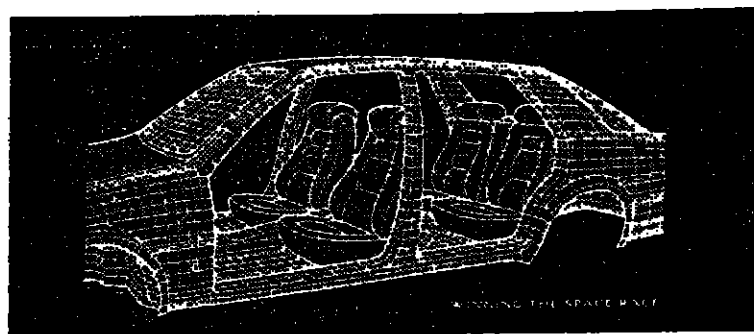
Whilst a list of active and passive safety features, many of them unique to Saab, make it one of the most responsible of its kind.

As well as bags of features the CD comes with bags of space. (Its stable-mate the multi-role 9000, boasts an unmatched cargo carrying capacity of some 56.5 cubic feet.)

Sweden's preoccupation with car safety is now legendary and the latest models from Saab are no exception.

SUNDAY EXPRESS

Once again, flying in the face of convention, aircraft-inspired construction make this 'Tardis-like' flying machine much bigger on the inside than anything else in its class.



(Lateral thinking and Saab's advanced Cray aeronautical computer placed the engine laterally across the chassis, allowing the forward bulkhead to be pushed forward, increasing both legroom, headroom and interior space.)

Internally, it is almost of limousine proportions, the corollary of a space-efficient front-drive powertrain and a longish wheel-base.

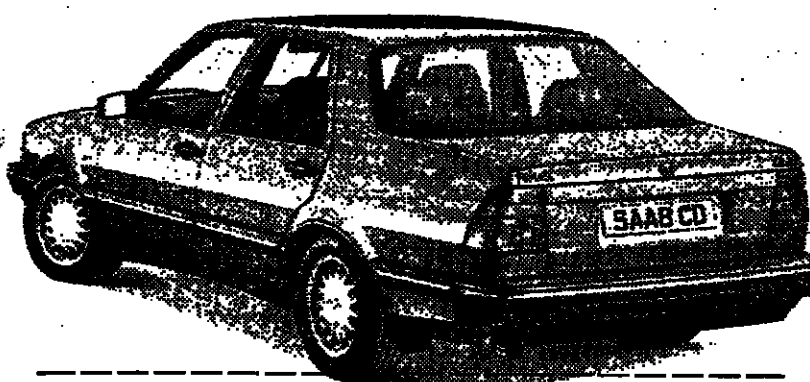
THE INDEPENDENT

Bulky and awkward payloads pose no problems either, because the CD has a cavernous boot.

In conclusion, it would appear that Saab's aircraft-inspired design philosophy truly does give you more for less.

More car, more space, more power, more excitement. Less money, less waste, less pollution, less worry.

IS MORE.



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Changing the
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As Michael Heseltine
announces his secretary
plans to resign, the in-
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that the government
has been led
with the state of the
best-known village.

Chancellor of the Exchequer
in the House of Commons
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Lords n sentenci gets wid

By the way, the Lords

ACROSS THE LAND, a
person's name is a
sensitive issue. It is
not the first time that
the House of Lords has
been asked to consider
a case where the name
of a person is involved.
In the past, the House
has been asked to
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Sinister shift towards a chocolate-box village at Ambridge

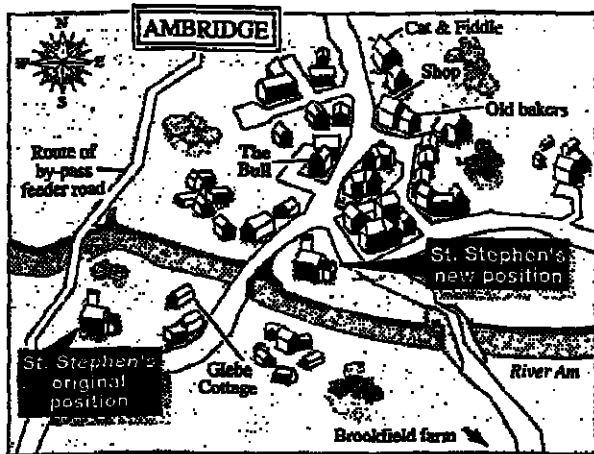
Changing the shape of the fictional Ambridge, it is claimed, could deprive real villages of help. Douglas Broom investigates

AS Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, prepares to redraw the map of England fresh evidence has emerged to suggest that someone has been tinkering with the shape of Britain's best-known village.

Christopher Dyer, Reader in Medieval History at Birmingham University, has discovered that important landmarks in the fictional village of Ambridge, home to the Archers, have been

moved. He made his discovery while researching a book about Hanbury, the real Worcestershire village near Droitwich that was used by Geoffrey Baxley, creator of the Archers, as the model for Ambridge.

"Twenty years ago it used to take characters nearly a quarter of an hour to walk from the church to the Bull, the Ambridge pub," Mr Dyer said. "That is about the time it takes to walk



from Church Hill to the Vernon Arms in Hanbury. "Nowadays the church seems to be virtually opp-

osite the Bull. Other buildings such as the Dower House also seemed to have moved nearer to the centre of the village.

"They seem to have been moved by the producers to make Ambridge fit the chocolate-box picture of a nucleated village set around its central village green."

Mr Dyer regards the change as sinister because, he says, it reinforces a view of the English village and its surrounding countryside which is not borne out by reality.

The more people came to regard the "village green" type of village as the norm the less willing they will be to protect villages which do not fit the pattern, but which were more historically important, he said. Niall

Fraser, producer of the Archers said: "Ambridge has never been specifically linked to Hanbury but we certainly have not moved anything consciously. In fact we work from the original map of Ambridge which we have been using for 20 odd years."

"There have been a few new buildings added over the years but none of the buildings have been moved. It still takes a quarter of an hour to walk from Grange Farm, where the Grundy family live, to the Bull."

Mr Dyer insisted that he had checked his facts with Mr Baxley's book *The Archers, a Slice of my Life* which features in the bibliography to his new book *Hanbury: Settlement and Society in a Woodland Landscape*.

Whatever the truth about the shifting shape of Ambridge, Mr Dyer's argument has particular relevance for Hanbury, which is facing the threat of large-scale development for the second time in as many years.

Last year it fought off plans to build a 5,000-home satellite town on its doorstep. Now Wychavon district council plans to allow 100 new homes to be added to the village which at present has just 75 houses. Mr Dyer said that the spread-out nature of Han-



Make-believe: Ambridge, as depicted on a plate painted by John Stubbs Design. Have the Archers' producers moved the pub closer to the Church?

bury was typical of the majority of English villages and planners were destroying the traditional pattern of the countryside by attempt-

ing to "fill in the gaps." The council plan also includes the construction of a bypass, similar to the one which caused consternation among

Ambridge residents in 1989. Planning officials from Wychavon council are to meet residents tonight to discuss the plan.



Real: the pub at Hanbury, model for Ambridge, now threatened by development

Lords move for a sentencing council gets wide backing

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A CROSS-PARTY alliance of peers is backing a move for a sentencing council to be set up under the Court of Appeal to improve consistency in sentencing. They are supporting a clause tabled by opposition peers which will be moved by Lord Richard when the criminal justice bill starts its committee stage tomorrow.

Under the clause, backed by the Labour peers Lords Richard and Mishcon and the Liberal Democrats Lord Hunt and Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, a group would be set up with responsibility for issuing guidance on sentences. It would be chaired by the Lord Chief Justice and would include no fewer than four court of appeal judges. It would have a discretionary power to appoint such people as a circuit judge, a magistrate, a prison governor, a chief probation officer and an academic penologist.

There is wide support across the legal profession for some kind of council to help to create consistency in sentencing and also to provide a forum where policy can be debated in the broader context

of the criminal justice system. The Magistrates Association has expressed concern over the lack of a body to promote consistency in sentencing practice between the crown courts and magistrates courts. A sentencing council could produce sentencing ceilings for different types and grades of offence, such as for different types of burglary or theft, together with principles for use in calculating sentences below that ceiling.

In a briefing paper to peers, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders says that criticisms have been levelled against a sentencing council as an interference with judicial independence. "Such criticism cannot be made against this proposal because the council would be part of the Court of Appeal which would be free to appoint members as it wished," Paul Cavatone, senior research officer with the association, said.

Supporters of the clause argue that if the government's sentencing strategy with its emphasis on shorter sentences is to succeed, there must be much more detailed guidance from the Court of Appeal.

The government will also come under pressure over mandatory life sentences for murder. A Lords select committee in 1989 recommended scrapping such sentences so that judges would have more discretion in linking sentences to the crimes. An amendment to give effect to this proposal has been tabled by Lord Nathan, who chaired the select committee, and it has wide support among peers. Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, has spoken strongly in favour of the proposal.



Lord Richard: proposal has cross-party support

BANK OF SCOTLAND BASE RATE

Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from Monday 25th March 1991 its Base Rate has been decreased from 13.00% per annum to 12.50% per annum.

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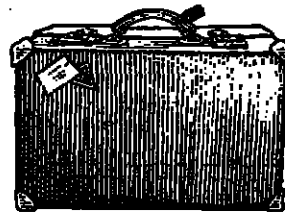
1930

First airline to provide stewardess service.



1936

First airline to establish own flight kitchens.



1956

First airline to install automatic baggage conveyor system.



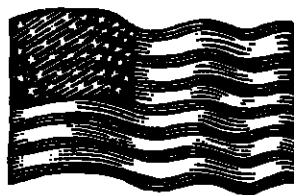
1967

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Dem leader: 100 d Mali

By Susan MacDonald

THE popular movement for democratic rule in Africa continues to spread yesterday with a third day of rioting in the impoverished West African state of Mali.

Security forces opened fire on anti-government protesters, adding at least three more deaths to a toll that opposition sources put at more than 100. Official figures put the toll at 34. Medical sources said three bodies were brought to the Gabriel Touré hospital in the capital, Bamako.

Reporters saw hospitals full of hundreds of injured, including children and old people, most of them suffering from gunshot wounds. Bursts of gunfire could be heard and columns of smoke rose above the city. Demonstrators continued to demand an end to President Moussa Traoré's 22-year one-party rule.

During last year's rioting, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Zaïre, disturbances in Benin, Congo, Cameroon and Algeria. The leaders of these countries have moved towards democracy. These are the worst riots in Africa since then. There have been months of tension in this landlocked desert country, one of the poorest in the world, during which thousands of people had already been killed in protests against reform.

President Traoré, aged 64, is an army general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1968. He announced a state of emergency in the capital on Friday, and in a broadcast to the nation he said he would now consider demands that he introduce multi-party elections when the ruling party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People, holds its party congress on Thursday.

But Bakary Karamba, a trade union chief, speaking before a crowd of tens of thousands yesterday, called for an indefinite general strike starting today, to demand President Traoré's immediate resignation and a national conference to work out multi-

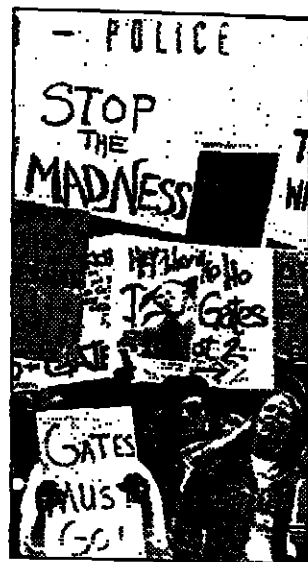
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LA's finest follow the book under angry public scrutiny



Protesters calling for the resignation of the police chief

ONE could almost hear the adrenaline pumping through the young policeman's veins as he told his sergeant how he had trapped three fleeing felons in a schoolyard. The trio, who rammed his car, had been pursued at high speed all the way from the Foothills area of the San Fernando valley.

Until recently the young policeman might have been inclined to mix it with the fugitives. But the mention of Foothills set off alarm bells in every officer's mind, which drowned out the sound of a half dozen sirens and the clattering of helicopters.

Three weeks ago last Saturday night, "LA's finest" fell from grace in the Foothills when they beat a black motorist senseless. Their clubbing, captured on an amateur video, was syndicated around the world. Their victim,

Police in Los Angeles are looking over their shoulders after public outrage over the brutal beating of a motorist. Sam Kiley reports on a night on patrol with them

Rodney King, aged 25, suffered a smashed jaw and eye socket and other injuries. This arrest would be by the book. But the tension of working the streets was visible on every officer's face.

While Daryl Gates, the chief of the Los Angeles police force, fights for his job against an angry wave of politicians and protesters calling for his resignation over the King case, the men and women under him insist that the beating, for which four officers have been indicted, was an isolated incident. Sergeant Dan DeJarnette, a black officer from

Cleveland, Ohio, with 21 officers under his command, said the clubbing was "something from the deep south, it doesn't happen here. I just think those guys finally cracked." Although some brutality is considered the norm among police, their work must blunt their sensibilities. It is not difficult to see why some reach breaking point.

By comparison with their colleagues who work the housing projects in the poor and gang-infested south central district, the men and women working in the northeast, have it pretty cushy.

Saturday night got off to a fairly normal start. Over the radio came news of an "ambulance cutting", a serious stabbing. When patrolmen arrived at the scene they found a pregnant woman claiming that her female cousin had tried to sexually assault her with a frozen hot dog and stabbed her with a kitchen knife. There were no hot dogs nor wounds, and the police decided the woman was probably "51-50", their code for crazy.

Soon afterwards came news of another ambulance cutting. A middle-aged man had been stabbed from behind. "We'll stay here until we hear that he has stabilised. If he croaks then we'll have to seal off the area and call in the detectives," said Sergeant DeJarnette. The man lived and the police moved on.

Since the King beating and attacks on the police chief, morale in the force has been low. "We don't like being called racists, we've got all sorts here and they have never given me any trouble. Given that we recruit from the human race there are bound to be a few odd ones in the bunch," said Sergeant DeJarnette.

Although physical attacks on the police are rare, they come without warning. Last month a policewoman was shot in the face by a drunk she cautioned for loitering. Nationwide 83 police have been killed in the line of duty in the past 15 months. In a town where gun ownership is a small step on the road to masculinity, shooting one into the air is a stride taken about every five minutes, further straining police nerves. And the officers know that there is no better way to win

esteem than to "187" — kill — a police officer.

As the shifts changed at 11pm, Sergeant David Kaufman took over. Soon news came of a gang murder on Sunset Boulevard. "Great, now we will have a retaliation hit and a little war," he said. "It's never ending."

The rest of what was a quiet night continued with a litany of gunfire reports, assaults with deadly weapons, rowdy gangsters and CRASH (anti-gang unit) busts. By dawn yesterday Sergeant Kaufman had had enough. "There is no excuse, no excuse for what those guys did when they beat King — but sometimes people lose their sense of reality, which can be easy out here. Still, not much tonight. Sorry it's been so boring."

Bernard Levin, page 12

Democracy leaders claim 100 dead in Mali riots

By SUSAN MACDONALD AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE popular movement for democratic rule in African countries continued yesterday with a third day of rioting in the impoverished West African state of Mali.

Security forces opened fire on anti-government protesters, adding at least three more deaths to a toll that opposition sources put at more than 100. Official figures put the total number of dead at 34. Medical sources said three bodies and at least 20 injured people were brought to the Gabriel Touré hospital in the capital, Bamako.

Reporters saw hospital rooms full of hundreds of injured, including children and old people, most of them suffering from gunshot wounds. Bursts of gunfire could be heard and columns of smoke rose above the dusty capital of 850,000 people as demonstrators continued to demand an end to President Moussa Traoré's 22 years of one-party rule.

During last year rioting in Ivory Coast, Gabon, Zaire and disturbances in Benin, Congo, Cameroon and Algeria forced the leaders of these countries to move towards democracy. These are the worst riots in Africa since then. There have been months of tension in this landlocked desert country, one of the poorest in the world, during which two people had already been killed as protesters sought reforms.

President Traoré, aged 64, is an army general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1968. He announced a state of emergency in the capital on Friday, and in a broadcast to the nation he said he would now consider demands that he introduce multi-party elections when the ruling party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People, holds its party congress on Thursday.

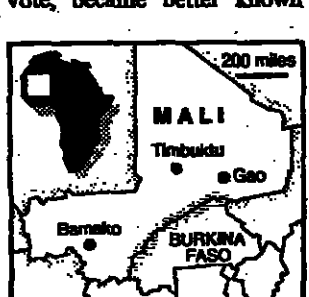
But Bakary Karamba, a trade union chief, speaking before a crowd of tens of thousands yesterday, called for an indefinite general strike starting today, to demand President Traoré's immediate resignation and a national conference to work out multi-

party reforms. The union had broken away from government control last year.

Mr Karamba and Demba Diallo, the lawyer president of the independent Malian Association for Human Rights, announced the strike call after Mr Diallo told the crowd that 100 people had been killed since demonstrations began on Friday and a further 1,000 had been injured. After meeting Christian and Muslim leaders, the president offered to hold discussions with opposition and trade union groups, who said they first had to consult their members.

The president, who has been secretary-general of the ruling party since it was formed in 1979, has previously dealt ruthlessly with opposition, crushing coup plots and civil unrest on several occasions with arrests and executions.

The tall, bespectacled president, who overthrew Modibo Keita, Mali's first post-independence president, and was re-elected to a third term in 1985 with 98 per cent of the vote, became better known



internationally after he became chairman of the Organisation of African Unity two years ago and mediated in the border conflict between his neighbours, Senegal and Mauritania.

He has embarked on an economic austerity programme to tackle falling commodity prices, a growing foreign debt, bad management and corruption. But Mali's greatest enemy is the Sahara desert which, after years of drought, encroaches relentlessly on the meagre agricultural land.



Practice run: Gil Gates (left), the Academy Awards producer, and other officials rehearsing for the show amid signs indicating the stars' seats

Dances With Wolves is Oscar favourite

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

BARRING total failure in the conventional wisdom, Kevin Costner is certain to walk off with at least one Oscar for his film *Dances With Wolves* when the year at the Academy Awards ceremony tonight.

Costner's revisionist Western is viewed by the film world as the easy favourite for the best picture award. Not since *Gone with the Wind* has a film been so heavily favoured in this category. "Who isn't going to like a movie about a guy who helps Indians, respects women and loves his dog?" said Chris Chase, a veteran critic.

Costner may also get the Oscars for best director and best actor, two other categories in which the epic won its near-record of 12 nominations. No film since *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in 1966 has received more.

The Hollywood grapevine tipped Jeremy Irons as a likely winner in the best actor category for his performance in *Reversal of Fortune*. Another contender is Richard Harris for his portrayal of an Irish peasant in *The Field*. Among actresses, the two favourites are Anjelica Huston for her role as an operator for the Mob in *The Grifters*, and Joanne Woodward as Paul Newman's classic upper-class WASP wife in *Mr and Mrs Bridge*.

The Golden Raspberry Award for the worst film of the year was to be announced last night. The contenders were: *Bonfire of the Vanities*, *Rocky*

V, *Adventures of Ford Fairlane*, *Graffiti Bridge* and *Ghosts Can't Do It*.

Nominations in the major Oscar categories are:

Picture: *Awakenings*, *Dances With Wolves*, *Ghost*, *The Godfather Part III*, and *GoodFellas*. Actor: Kevin Costner (*Dances With Wolves*), Robert De Niro (*Awakenings*), Gérard Depardieu (*Cyrano de Bergerac*), Richard Harris (*The Field*), Jeremy Irons (*Reversal of Fortune*). Actress: Kathy Bates (*Misery*), Anjelica Huston (*The Grifters*), Julia Roberts (*Pretty Woman*), Meryl Streep (*Postcards from the Edge*), Joanne Woodward (*Mr and Mrs Bridge*). Supporting actor: Bruce Davison (*Longtime Companion*), Andy Garcia (*The Godfather Part III*), Graham Greene (*Dances With Wolves*), Al Pacino (*Dick Tracy*), Joe Pesci (*GoodFellas*). Supporting Actress: Annette Bening (*The Grifters*), Lorraine Bracco (*GoodFellas*), Whoopi Goldberg (*Ghost*), Diane Ladd (*Wild At Heart*), Mary McDonnell (*Dances With Wolves*). Director: Francis Ford Coppola (*The Godfather Part III*), Kevin Costner (*Dances With Wolves*), Stephen Frears (*The Grifters*), Barbet Schroeder (*Reversal of Fortune*), Martin Scorsese (*GoodFellas*).

Foreign language film: *Cyrano de Bergerac* (France), *Journey of Hope* (Switzerland), *Ju Dou* (China), *The Nasty Girl* (Germany), *Open Doors* (Italy). Original screenplay: Woody Allen (*Alio*),

Barry Levinson (*Avalon*), Bruce Joel Rubin (*Ghost*), Whit Stillman (*Metropolitan*), Peter Weir (*Green Card*). Screenplay adaptation: Michael Blake (*Dances With Wolves*), Nicholas Kazan (*Reversal of Fortune*), Nicholas Finkel and Martin Scorsese (*GoodFellas*), Donald Westlake (*The Grifters*), Steven Zaillian (*Awakenings*).

Original score: John Barry (*Dances With Wolves*), David Grusin (*Havana*), Maurice Jarre (*Ghost*), Randy Newman (*Avalon*), John Williams (*Home Alone*). Original song: *Blaze of Glory* by Jon Bon Jovi (*Young Guns II*), *I'm Checkin' Out* by Sheryl Silverstein (*Postcards from the*

Edge), *Promise Me You'll Remember* by Carmine Coppola and John Bettis (*The Godfather Part III*), *Some-where In My Memory* by John Williams and Leslie Bricusse (*Home Alone*), *Sooner or Later* by Stephen Sondheim (*Dick Tracy*).

The Oscars, page 17

Debate takes a back seat in China

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

NEARLY 3,000 delegates are gathered in Peking today to take part in the annual two-week ritual of speech-making, tea-drinking and nodding off which, in China's present state of political paralysis, passes for a parliamentary session.

Since the headline backlash of 1989, the parliament, or National People's Congress, has abandoned even the limited political debate it experimented with in the mid-1980s and has reverted to its traditional role as a rubber stamp for party policy. Delegates applaud in the right places and vote almost unanimously on unadventurous legislation. According to the prevailing political line, which is "stability above all", debate is out. Zhao Ziyang, the ousted party leader, is still a delegate to the congress, but his seat will be vacant, officials said.

Asked what he expected from the congress, a usually voluble diplomat replied: "Nothing." The leaders are not expected to make important policy or personnel changes. The paralysis is interpreted by diplomats as an indication that neither reformers nor hardliners have claimed victory in their power struggle.

Your year off between school and university may be the last before you retire.

Don't blow it.

Your 'gap' year, more than any other, is your own.

What will you do with it? Collect a lorry full of relief supplies and drive it to Romania? Pack a rucksack and hitch-hike round South America? Join Operation Raleigh? Learn about art (and life) Inter-railing round Europe?

What's the wisest use of your time? Travelling? Earning? Doing something for charity? Learning a language? Getting a qualification? Or just enjoying your new-found freedom?

May we offer a suggestion? Do them all. Join the British Army for a few months.

A Short Service Limited Commission would take you to Sandhurst for three weeks in October or March, after which you'd join the regiment of your choice as a 2nd Lieutenant until your university course started. The opportunities there would be as great as you made them.

Last year an officer with the Ordnance Corps led a Land-Rover expedition into the Arctic Circle. Then he crossed the Tundra by snow machine and learned to survive at -40°C with the Inuit Eskimos.

Another, with the Royal Artillery, sampled life in the heat and soaking humidity of the Central American jungle.

A young woman got her HGV 3 licence, her Advanced Driving Test, learned to water-ski, wind-surf and heli-abseil and wrote front page stories for the British Forces Cyprus newspaper, *The Lion*.

Parachuting, mountaineering, gliding, skiing (cross country and downhill), trekking, sailing, riding, diving, white-water rafting — the activities you could try read rather like the brochure of a high class adventure holiday company. The difference is that we'd be paying you; not just in experience, in cash. What do we get out of all this? Frankly, an ambassador.

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
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British war graves looted in Natal

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African police have questioned at least eight British expatriates, and may seek the extradition of two suspects from Britain, in connection with the systematic looting of 19th century British war graves in Natal.

The attorney-general of Natal is expected to file charges within the next few days of involvement in the theft of hundreds of artefacts from the graves of soldiers who died in the battle of Isandlwana on January 22, 1879.

Some 1,329 British servicemen, fighting with their backs to an encampment, were killed by a Zulu army in a battle which precipitated the fall of the Disraeli government.

Their shallow graves, most of them marked with white-painted cairns, lay undisturbed until syndicates began cashing in on a boom in military memorabilia by plundering the site and dispatching belts, buckles,

medals and rings to collectors in Britain and America.

Since the looting began in earnest 18 months ago, private collectors are reported to have paid up to £80 for a brass tunic button and thousands of pounds for regimental belts. Syndicates operating from the Transvaal are using metal detectors and skeletons have been scattered.

Police, alerted by the custodians of the battlefield, have raided houses in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Sasolburg and recovered a large quantity of gold rings, belts, medals and helmet badges.

Twelve people were killed and 29 injured yesterday when police and armed black people clashed in the Daveyton township east of Johannesburg. One of the dead was a policeman. Yesterday, police also reported 16 other deaths from violence in the Johannesburg area. (A2)

Bush questioned over hazy postwar policies on Iraq

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

BUSH administration officials expressed concern at the weekend that Washington lacks clear postwar policies aimed at achieving the goals of ending Saddam Hussein's leadership without the collapse of his country.

Their assessments, quoted in leading American newspapers, came as President Bush stepped up assurances that Washington is not directly involved in fighting between Iraqi insurgents and government forces even though America wants to see the Iraqi president ousted.

According to the senior officials, the immediate concern of the White House is to ensure the unity of Iraq with a central government as the best perceived hope of building a lasting regional peace and Iraqi stability. But the failure of the Iraqi military so far to overthrow President Saddam and the unexpected persistence of Iranian-backed Shia fundamentalists fighting against the Iraqi military in the south and that of Kurds in the north has highlighted the administration's lack of clarity on realizing its aims.

Judging from comments last week by James Baker, the secretary of state, the administration has been working on the premise that Saddam will not survive in power beyond the end of this year. During the final stages of the war, US officials made clear that Washington was counting on leaders within the Iraqi Baathist party and the military to overthrow a weakened Saddam. But the rebels have

put up a greater than expected challenge to the pro-Baghdad Iraqi troops and prompted concern about the potential "Lebanonisation" of the country.

President Bush said on Saturday that the United States was "playing no part" in the "enormous consternation and turmoil inside Iraq". Following a meeting with President Ozal of Turkey, however, he emphasised that "normal relations with the United States cannot be affected with Saddam Hussein still calling the shots, still in power".

Foreign policy experts and lower-ranking administration officials were drawing attention to the Bush administration's hazy postwar policies before the weekend. In an interview with American reporters, Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said the Pentagon had "no instructions" to take any action that might benefit either the Kurdish insurgents or the Shia rebels. The Washington Post yesterday quoted officials as saying the administration has not resolved a policy debate over whether American troops should remain in Iraq in order to limit Saddam's capacity to restrict the rebellions or whether they should withdraw, clearing the way for a challenge by the Iraqi military.

In the most explicit statement to date by a member of Mr Bush's so-called "big eight" Gulf advisers, General Powell said that American troops would remain in southern Iraq "for some months to

come". Their stay would allow Washington to enforce the conditions of the provisional ceasefire agreement signed earlier this month but probably also would provoke domestic criticism of Mr Bush from Americans who have expected the swift return of their troops.

In a sign of its improved standing among Arab governments after the war, the United States is reported near to an agreement to move an advance military command base for Middle Eastern operations from Tampa, Florida, to somewhere in the region. Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of US forces, denied rumours yesterday that the Pentagon would move the entire command centre and emphasised that America had no plans for a permanent ground force unless requested by regional powers. General Powell said last Friday that an agreement on a headquarters in the Middle East was close.

Lloyds sees Iraq, page 21



Pointing the finger: A portrait of President Saddam Hussein being carried at a rally of Iraqi opposition groups held in London yesterday

Hammadi tries to pacify Iraq's rebellious Shias

FROM ADAM KELLIER IN AMMAN

SADOUN Hammadi, Iraq's new prime minister, yesterday toured southern areas of the country where members of the Shia community have been fighting to end President Saddam Hussein's rule.

Baghdad radio said Mr Hammadi, aged 55, the former vice-president and long-serving member of the ruling Baath party, was greeted by crowds at Qadisiyah, and the holy city of Najaf, both places in the grip of rebellion. He was quoted as saying that he planned to "rebuild what was destroyed by the cliques and saboteurs who came from outside the country's borders".

His appearance did not pacify the rebels who, according to reports yesterday from opposition groups based in Syria, and the state-run Iranian media, killed eight senior Iraqi officers in Basra, engaged government troops in Karbala, Amarah and Khanaqin, and staged hit-and-run attacks in Baghdad.

Saddam, who recently spoke of "a decisive, irreversible decision" to bring political pluralism to his de-

vised country, clearly has not made any move to dilute his power. "What the government really needs is people who really represent the different factions in Iraq," Jamal Shahr, a former Baath party official living in Jordan, said. He believes the cabinet should include candidates from the military, opposition parties and influential tribes.

Eleven new members joined the 24-strong cabinet in a move that brought Saddam's inner clique of loyalists even closer to power, while trying to put a better face on his government with the promotion of technocrats.

NAJAF: The most senior Shia scholar, the Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem al-Khoei, has again condemned the killings and violence arising out of the revolt against Saddam, but he also asked Saddam to give an amnesty to rebels. The ayatollah spoke to reporters here three days after he upset Shias abroad by supporting Saddam during a speech broadcast on television in Baghdad and denouncing "sedition". (Reuters)

Drive by radicals to oust Arafat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN DAMASCUS

WITH the tacit support of Syria, a group of radical Palestinians has launched a new campaign to oust Yasser Arafat from the chairmanship of the Palestine Liberation Organisation because of his support for Iraq during the Gulf war.

The campaign, which is understood to have the support of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and a number of the conservative Gulf states, is being led by Khalid Fayoum, aged 68, a former chairman of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's parliament in exile, and a founder member of the PLO.

Mr Fayoum said the PLO's support for Iraq was "the latest and gravest in a series of Arafat blunders which stretched back to Black September, the civil war in Jordan in 1970". He wants a collective leadership, but would not name any candidates.

JERUSALEM: Israel resumed its much criticised policy of deportation at the weekend, issuing expulsion orders against four Palestinian activists.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS

National & Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice that the rates of interest payable on the following accounts, with effect from Monday 25 March 1991, will be as indicated:

Name of Account	Minimum Balance	Gross Interest Rate %	Net Interest Rate (based on current basic rate of income tax) %	
			For payments after 5 April 1991	For payments before 6 April 1991
Private Reserve	£500	12.05	9.04	8.99
	£5,000	12.25	9.19	9.46
	£10,000	13.00	9.75	10.40
	£25,000	13.20	9.90	11.04
	£50,000	13.25	9.94	11.08
Instant Reserve	£500	11.75	8.81	9.17
	£2,000	11.95	8.96	9.32
	£5,000	12.15	9.11	9.48
	£10,000	12.85	9.64	10.02
	£25,000	13.15	9.86	10.26
Holiday Saver	£25	8.00	6.00	6.24
	£250	8.50	6.38	6.63
	£500	9.75	7.31	7.61
	£1,000	10.25	7.69	8.00
	£1,500	10.75	8.06	8.39
StowAway Bond	£500	12.25	9.19	9.56
	£1,000	12.75	9.56	9.95
Ordinary Share	£1	7.00	5.25	5.25
	£500	11.43	8.57	8.92
	£5,000	11.61	8.71	9.06
	£10,000	12.28	9.21	9.58
	£25,000	12.46	9.35	9.72
Monthly Income	£50,000	12.51	9.38	9.76
	£1	13.50	n/a	n/a
	£3,000	14.00	n/a	n/a
	£10	7.00	5.25	5.46
	£100	8.00	6.00	6.24
The BUZZ	£10	7.00	5.25	5.46
	£100	8.00	6.00	6.24
90 Day Notice	£500	10.25	7.69	8.00
	£5,000	10.75	8.06	8.39
	£10,000	11.25	8.44	8.78
	£25,000	11.75	8.81	9.17
	£50,000	13.25	9.94	10.34
Security Bond I (Monthly Interest)	£500	12.25	9.19	9.56
	£500	12.75	9.56	9.95
Security Bond II (Annual Interest)	£500	13.50	10.13	10.53
	£500	12.75	9.56	9.95
Security Bond III	£500	12.75	9.56	9.95
	£1,000	13.75	10.31	10.73
1990 Bond	£500	12.75	9.56	9.98
	£500	10.25	7.69	8.00
Apex	£250	7.25	5.44	5.66
	£500	7.75	5.81	6.05
7 Day Notice	£500	9.25	6.94	7.22
	£500	7.50	5.62	5.85
Continuation Bonds	£1	7.00	5.25	5.46
	£1,000	7.25	5.44	5.66
Selector Term	£1	12.00	9.00	9.36
	£500	7.00	5.25	5.46
Greater Growth	£1	7.00	5.25	5.46
	£1,000	7.25	5.44	5.66
Company Savings Schemes	£1	7.00	5.25	5.46
	£500	8.50	6.38	6.63
Instant Access	£1	7.00	5.25	5.46
	£500	8.50	6.38	6.63
	£2,000	9.00	6.75	7.02
	£5,000	9.25	6.94	7.22
	£10,000	9.50	7.13	7.41
	£30,000	9.75	7.31	7.61

General reveals secrets of war

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SIX helicopters flying across the Kuwait-Saudi border, supposedly with defectors in Iraq on board, were carrying American special forces units returning from a reconnaissance mission behind enemy lines.

At the time of the incident, before the allied ground war began, Saudi officials announced that Iraqi helicopter pilots had defected. The Saudi claims were subsequently withdrawn after 24 hours of apparent confusion.

According to a report in tonight's BBC Panorama programme, the Americans had painted helicopters to look like Iraqi ones and special forces teams were flying from Kuwait on secret missions. Confirmation of the missions was provided by Lieutenant-General Leonard Perroto who was director of the American Defence Intelligence Agency until 1989 and was used as a special consultant to the DIA throughout the Gulf war. General Perroto also confirmed that the Soviet Union had supplied technical information about Scud missiles to Britain. The Russians said the Scuds could remain hidden for much longer than had been thought, without needing to be refuelled. Allied strategy was changed on the basis of the Soviet information.

Questioned on the pro-

gramme about American precision-bombing targeting, General Perroto admitted that the American intelligence community had got it wrong when bombers targeted the baby milk factory outside Baghdad at the beginning of the allied air campaign. The Americans claimed that the facility was a biological weapons plant. The huge milk vats were said to have been used to mix chemical and biological compounds for use in weapons. "We made a mistake," General Perroto said.

He also admitted that the intelligence information, which led to the precision bombing of the reinforced bunker at Amiriya in Baghdad, killing 300 civilians, had not been up-to-date. "It was not the most current information," he said.

General Perroto insisted that the bunker was not "a run-of-the-mill air raid shelter". But he said: "There was no evidence that it was being used as a command and control bunker at the time of the attack."

General Perroto claimed there was no "orchestrated agenda" to get rid of President Saddam Hussein during the war. But there were those in the intelligence community who would have liked to prolong the war to "increase the possibility of bringing Saddam down".

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Junior Saver	£1	7.00	5.25	5.46
	£500	8.50	6.38	6.63
	£2,000	9.00	6.75	7.02
	£5,000	9.25	6.94	7.22
	£10,000	9.50	7.13	7.41
	£30,000	9.75	7.31	7.61
Standard Deposits	£1	7.00	5.25	5.46
Corporate Deposits	£1	8.00	6.00	6.24
Saver Shares	£1	9.00	6.75	7.02
Subscription Shares	£1	7.75	5.81	6.05
Flexible Savings	£1	8.25	6.19	6.44
Bonus Shares	£60	7.00	5.25	5.25

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	£10,000	12.40
	£25,000	13.75
Offshore Reserve	£500	11.50
	£10,000	12.50
	£25,000	13.25
	£30,000	13.50
	£50,000	13.75
Offshore Reserve Quarterly Interest	£500	11.03
	£10,000	11.93
	£25,000	12.43
	£30,000	12.88
	£50,000	13.09
Isle of Man 90 Day Notice	£500	11.75
	£5,000	12.00
	£10,000	12.35
	£25,000	13.70
	£50,000	13.75
Isle of Man Monthly Income	£1,000	11.16
	£5,000	11.39
	£10,000	11.70
	£25,000	12.89
	£50,000	12.77

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Ronald Butt

Let him prove his mastery

The prime minister has been accused of dithering because he has made no attempt to camouflage the hesitating approach of the government in its search for a more publicly acceptable replacement for the poll tax.

In fact, he deserves praise both for the realism with which he immediately accepted the verdict of public opinion against the tax and the honesty with which he has handled the local government emergency he inherited.

He has been realistic because it is absolutely fundamental to parliamentary government that a tax must be sufficiently acceptable to be collectable, which the poll tax was not.

The overriding reason for the original summons of the Commons to parliament more than seven centuries ago was not so much to make taxation "legal" by granting it, but so that they should be able to tell the king what their constituents could be persuaded to pay and be sure that it could, in practice, be collected. On at least one occasion, in 1339, they actually told the king that "they dare not" assent to the tax he wanted before they consulted their constituents, after which they would return in a new parliament — which is what happened. Similarly, it was resistance to attempts to collect the notoriously unfair flat-rate poll tax that provided the fuse which ignited the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

Mr Major was therefore right to accept the reality which Mrs Thatcher had wrongly assumed, that she could outpace by the sheer power of her will and authority. Many a successful ruler has thought the same and has come a cropper. Mr Major was also well advised not to conceal the difficulties he faced from the outset of his prime ministership. It is never easy for a politician to put his party's policies into reverse without being tempted into cosmetic explanations that do more damage than good.

So the "flagship" (as she called it) of Mrs Thatcher's third term has been sunk by Mr Major and his cabinet, almost all of whom, save Michael Heseltine, were parties to the introduction of the poll tax.

The case against them is not that they have now undone what should never have been done, but that they themselves accepted and defended the original momentous blunder.

Even so, we must be rational in assessing the blame that attaches to ministers who are switching course; their original error was to accept Mrs Thatcher's will. The reality is that almost any prime minister who chooses to be so is master of his cabinet and there is nothing new in that. "Sir Robert Peel... was completely master of his cabinet (and the prime minister ought to be)... wrote Queen Victoria in one of her letters, going on to list approvingly others among her prime ministers who had also been "masters".

The reality is that it is hard for colleagues to bend a determined minister who is at the apex of his or her power, as Mrs Thatcher was

at the time. When that power begins to fade it is, of course, different.

Yet it is clear from this unhappy episode that on matters so potentially ruinous as the poll tax, ministers ought to be more willing to resign than they have become in recent decades. In the past they did resign more often on great questions of principle. Now they wait to be sacked or else go on some personal point of grievance and grumble about policy later. If, for instance, Nigel Lawson was convinced in 1986 that the mooted poll tax was completely unworkable and politically catastrophic, as he warned his colleagues, he should have said he would resign then, and others with him. As it was Mrs Thatcher was her cabinet, on her back benches and from outside parliament.

The present cabinet will now take its tune from the new leader as it did from the old. I am sure that it is right in intending to reduce the proportion of tax raised locally and to place more on the Exchequer. The cost of services laid on local authorities by central government should logically be paid for by the centre. This would still leave local authorities accountable to their voters for how well or badly they spent the money, and also for the provision of strictly local services used by all

— which are suitable for local tax-raising and for which, indeed, a revised poll tax could still have been appropriate. If there is a worry now it is about the uncertain nature of the intended hybrid property and personal tax, especially if the personal aspect still requires a register of individuals. All depends on what precisely the cabinet comes up with. Meanwhile, Labour is edging into the lead over the Tories (though one poll report favours Tory prospects in the marginal seats).

There are indications that the voters still feel unsure about whether ministers are serious about getting rid of the poll tax, and there is still disagreement among Tory party workers about whether this is desirable. In the end, the Tories' hopes will depend on how well Mr Major leads as well as listens. His emphasis on social concern, and his idea of a "citizen's charter" to enforce delivery of quality in the public services, are not merely a response to public opinion. They are solidly in line with one of traditional Tory convictions.

The doubts attach to feasibility and practice. How precisely is it all to be done? Slogans will not be enough.

Mr Major must show that he knows how to do in practice what he rightly wants to do in principle. For that he needs time, probably all the time between now and June 1992. If invited to judge Mr Major on promises alone, the public will give its verdict on its memory of the late Thatcher and early Major periods combined.

Honest though the switch to Majorism has been, the Tory record on which the voters will choose to judge may not then look either coherent or convincing.



Major: slogans not enough

An industry in want of a new script

William Cash argues against tax breaks for British film makers

Tonight's Oscar ceremonies in Los Angeles will feature only two films wholly financed in Britain. Both are in the category of best animated short, otherwise known as cartoons.

This neatly summarises the present state of the British film industry, where investment has fallen from £275 million in 1984 to £126 million today following a succession of box-office flops. Last year Britain wholly financed just 16 films and Hollywood executives have dubbed our film-makers "the Untouchables".

In last week's Budget, Norman Lamont wisely refused to endorse the tax incentives and business expansion scheme proposed by the virtually bankrupt film industry. Wilf Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, believed these would resurrect the industry and had grandiose plans to turn Britain into the Hollywood of Europe within five years.

The BFI's dream is for the European film community to take

on Hollywood by pooling resources and talent to create, say, an Anglo-German-Spanish co-production shot in France with English-speaking actors. The idea is to tap European culture, while using the English language, to sell them both in the European and American market. But such European cultural homogeneity is a myth, and the plan lacks both artistic coherence and market viability.

British film will commit financial suicide and lose more credibility by supporting such a scheme. The results of the European Script Fund should act as a warning. Since 1989 it has spent £3 million funding nearly 250 film development packages of which only eight have started production.

Another difficulty is the acrimony about what a European film should be. France, which has a long tradition of national sub-

sidy and a strong sense of exactly what a French film should be, is unlikely to persuade its taxpayers to subsidise such a *mélange*.

What British and other European film makers often forget is that most cinéastes are aged between 15 and 23. Hollywood thrives because it understands its market. Multi-million pound hits like *E.T.*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Back to the Future* would never have been made here. That is because there are few City businessmen who would invest £7 million in a film that is based on a husband who shrinks his children: an unlikely subject but a box-office hit worldwide.

Yet 20 years ago British studios were full and we were turning out nearly 100 films a year. Admittedly the industry was subsidised (through the Eadie levy and a capital allowance scheme), but the important point is that they made

films that people wanted to see. British film exemplifies the faults of much of our arts. As David Putnam, the director, has said: "It's never been a real industry, just the story of a few individuals."

As a result British film makers run the danger of being too elitist or abstruse (*Drowning by Numbers*), or too engaged with contemporary politics (*Sammy and Rosie Get Laid*). The consequence is that they only have limited appeal in this country and do not travel well. People go to the movies to enjoy themselves, not to be mystified or preached at.

British film can be an excellent cultural export and it is only right that tax incentives should be introduced to put the British film industry on an equal footing with other countries. But a few extra million pounds is not going to make the slightest difference in the

long term. The entire approach to making films needs changing. Tradition needs a revival of the tradition of telling a good story well. As Alfred Hitchcock said: "To make a fine film, you need three things: a great script, a great director and a great script." It is now 10 years since Colin Welland (*Chariots of Fire*) won an Oscar for best original screenplay. In Hollywood, it is almost unknown for a script to be written by less than three writers.

David Putnam says he rejects film industry elitism "because it is the elitist who tends to sneer at the idea of entertainment, as though entertainment and the serious engagement of the mind are opposing forces."

That would have appeared a strange notion to someone like Charles Dickens who, had he been around today, would tonight walk off with a fistful of Oscars. He was never one to step away from a challenge.

Hype behind the Oscars, page 17

No nirvana of perfection

American surveys show that racial stereotyping persists. Legislation must protect people, but it

cannot enforce enlightenment, writes Bernard Levin



Let us go bald-headed at today's theme, which is the human race is not perfect, and is unlikely to become perfect in the very near future. You nod your heads in agreement; but if you are to be honest with yourselves, you will have to admit that again and again you have behaved as though you denied the proposition; and some have even gone further, their actions admitting of no interpretation other than that they believe that humanity has already reached the nirvana of perfection.

Here, then, is a wonderful example of that fallacy in operation; it comes from the United States, where the fallacy is more widespread than anywhere else. A most respectable research organisation, part of the University of Chicago, has recently conducted an opinion poll, which sought to determine the prevailing attitudes to a number of racial minority groups. The researchers went out with their clipboards and their polite manner, and first asked a representative selection of respondents what they thought of blacks, under a number of headings.

It transpired that among whites, Hispanics, Asians and Jews (all of these were represented in the sample) to the question "Are blacks more likely than whites to prefer to live off welfare and less likely to prefer to be self-supporting?", no fewer than 78 per cent said yes. When asked whether blacks were more likely than whites to be lazy, 62 per cent agreed that they were, and when asked whether they were violent-prone, 56 per cent assented, while 53 per cent believed that they were also less intelligent, and 51 per cent less patriotic.

Those researchers who had not been rendered incapable of proceeding because of the shock to their beliefs, then did the survey all over again, this time asking about attitudes to Hispanics. The result was well calculated to knock the stuffing out of the remaining researchers, because it revealed that 74 per cent of those questioned thought Hispanics would prefer handouts to the search for self-sufficiency, 56 per cent thought they were lazy, 55 per cent less intelligent, 50 per cent violent and a striking 61 per cent less patriotic.

There is a charming irony for me in the story; I found the figures in *The Washington Post*, of all leading American newspapers per-

haps the one most prone to believing that Satan is dead. Even the head of the research unit which carried out the polling could not entirely hide his dismay behind his professional objectivity, saying: "Since the beginning of the civil rights movement, there was great emphasis on ending segregation and creating a series of laws that treated all racial, religious and ethnic groups equally. The feeling was that we'll intermingle and we'll get to know one another and the stereotypes will drop away."

Why the stereotypes have not dropped away is the important question, but I do not think I shall acquire the necessary enlightenment from Mr Lawrence Bobo, a professor of sociology (what else?) in California (where else?), who was called in to explain the alarming results of the survey, and who explains it thus: "Once you have well entrenched some system of unequal relations between majority and minority groups, a set of ideas that sort of justifies that

societal order is likely to take shape, and that will include a set of ideas about the traits of minority group members that putatively explain why it is they should occupy a lesser, subordinated status." (My own surveys dealings with these matters have revealed that 97 per cent of the sample think that no professor of sociology is capable of putting 10 intelligible words together, and 91 per cent think that all professors of the subject from California are illiterate, and as far as I can see both opinions are fully justified.)

But now for the why. The most important clue is to be found in the words of the man who directed the survey, when he referred to the "great emphasis on ending segregation and creating a series of laws that treated all racial, religious and ethnic groups equally". Societies like ours, which live by law, are appealingly likely to believe that if legislation is enacted and generally obeyed, the problem to which the legislation was addressed in the

black and white in America hate one other like ten thousand Ku Klux Klans. Like bees trapped behind a window, human beings strive, however fitfully, towards the light; but the progress in that striving cannot be rapid, and those who yell and threaten and demand that the pace must be increased are inevitably and tragically ensuring that it will slow down.

Men are unwise, and curiously planned", thus wrote the poet James Elroy Flecker, and he had cottoned on to a tremendous truth, which is that the biggest fool in all history was Procrustes, though he is the patron saint of millions of Americans and many thousands of people in every other land. Prejudice is in the air we breathe, the sounds we hear, the sights we see; a man entirely without it is as rare as one with three legs. The millions of Americans and thousands of others to whom I have referred insist that it must be stamped out, and immediately; if they were told about the Chicago survey they would refuse to believe that it took place, and if they were given irrefutable evidence that it did take place they would refuse to look at it; the only way that would be renewed demands for harsher laws against prejudice.

Such people, many of them very worthy, are a damned nuisance, and not just a damned nuisance but a ball and chain on progress in the cause they claim to espouse — nay, lead. They cannot have been reading Popper lately, with his eternal refrain: "Don't ask why questions, ask how questions; don't ask what are questions, ask what do questions?"

If they realised it, they have found the formula. Don't try to legislate for compulsory brotherly love; just make illegal the practice of bashing a man's head in if his skin is a darker shade (or above all, though, don't try to legislate for the extinction of the feelings revealed in the Chicago survey. Feelings are not susceptible to legislation; they will wear away over the centuries, or possibly they won't, and in neither case can anybody change them by force, by law, or by honeyed words and smiles.

And above all you cannot do it by suppressing such evidence as the Chicago study provides. Even Procrustes eventually realised that.

Hackett goes back to war

General Sir John Hackett has asked the BBC to withdraw a documentary, which, he believes, wrongly blames the present Arab-Israeli conflict on British action to quell local unrest in Palestine between 1926 and 1939.

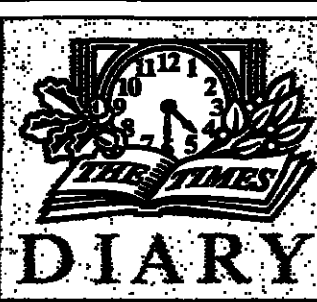
Although the distinguished former commander cooperated with the makers of the Timeswatch programme, *The First Intifada*, he has not seen it. He became alarmed about its content after reading publicity material sent to him by the BBC.

He consulted colleagues who had served with him in the region during the disturbances. They were incensed by the claim of British brutality which, the circular stated, was "the start of the Palestinians' long cycle of suffering and the root of the present Arab-Israeli conflict".

Sir John contacted the BBC and asked that the word "brutality" be replaced with "determination". He was offered "harshness" and rejected it.

"In all my years of service in Palestine I saw no brutality," he says. "I heard, instead, from Arabs of their suffering at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, generations before the British arrived. And to describe this as the crushing of a peasant rebellion is to come close to deliberate untruth."

Sir John now fears that the programme will reflect badly on his own and his comrades' effort in that region more than 50 years ago. "It was a far-sighted colonial experiment which was defeated by Hitler," says Sir John. "He was the architect of the present troubles, because his repression led to the flooding of the area with illegal immigrants. This programme is bad, tendentious and untruthful."



The tail-to-tail link-up used by the Metropolitan police at Saturday's anti-poll tax demonstration in London was not a newly developed tactic to deal with troublesome crowds. A Scotland Yard spokesman explains that chuching the waist belt of the officer in front is the recognised way of forming a cordon. However, "they do not hold the position all afternoon", she says.

No Scuds from Ted

With poetic tributes to our troops in the Gulf can we expect from the pen of Ted Hughes, the poet laureate? In reply to a letter enquiring whether he would be composing anything on the subject, his wife says that Hughes has no plans to write anything "on that subject". No reams of verse on the virtues of Patriots or the swiftness of Scuds will join the archives of poems by other poet laureates on the subject of war, most notably *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Tennyson.

Poet Gavin Ewart is unperturbed by the laureate's silence. "Ted Hughes shouldn't write anything unless he feels he wants to," says Ewart, who has written a poem about watching *Twin Peaks* while there is a war on. He shouldn't have to feel "Oh God, we've got to think up another *Charge of the Light Brigade*." Ewart recounts the potentially disastrous effect of writing to order on John Massfield, another

poet laureate. "He thought he had to write about everything. He used to send letters to *The Times* with his poems and include a stamped addressed envelope just in case the paper didn't publish them."

Cat in the act

Talented British cats are invited to audition for a new circus show in Blackpool. Yuri Kuklachev, a Russian clown who normally uses his own highly-trained, acrobatic cats, had to leave his moggies behind because of quarantine regulations.

He needs 50 feline stars for his one-man circus act, to be staged this summer at Blackpool's Super-



dome. Accommodation will be provided in a special "cat-house" in Blackpool, and the charismatic Tiddles will earn a tidy sum for their efforts. "The ideal applicants will be mild-mannered, house-trained, hardworking, have a sense of humour, and be ready for a five-month summer season," says the show's organisers. "Experience is not essential."

In the footlights

Disaster turned to triumph for the Royal Ballet last week when Robert Hill fell and injured his knee during his first act solo in the company's production of *Swan Lake* at Washington's Kennedy Center. As he was being carried off to hospital,

a member of the audience dashed backstage, donned tights and shoes and completed the three-act ballet, partnering ballerina Doreen Russell for her American debut as Odette-Odile.

Russell's saviour was more than a gifted amateur. Luckily for her it was Phillip Broadhead, former principal dancer at Covent Garden, who left in January to join the Houston Ballet.

There was great applause for both of them when they came on in Act 2, says a Royal Ballet spokesman. Meanwhile, Hill has undergone an operation and will be out of action for six months.

Eastern promise

East meets West when Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman of ICI, visits Eastern Europe for a new series of television programmes. The two 50-minute Polish and Hungarian editions of the series, to be shown this autumn, will follow the format of the British series in which Sir John left many company executives quaking after visiting their plants and frankly assessing their shortcomings.

The mustachioed business guru and former naval intelligence officer says he is not a stranger to the problems of Eastern Europe. He learnt Russian at Cambridge and was responsible for managing plants in the Soviet Union when he ran ICI. "I'll see if we can offer some help," says Sir John. "They sure as hell need it."

Aurelia Young, wife of Sir George Young, the housing minister, ruefully reports on the couple's decision to buy a second-hand car. She tells how they drove home in their new purchase — which they had carefully inspected on the forecourt beforehand, only to find it was 6 in too long for their garage. "We are now looking for a second-hand garage," she jokes.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Craig Brown wrote recently of what he called "columnar dystrophy". This diagnosis strikes terror into a columnist's heart. We recognise it immediately. "Shall I write a column about things you can't get any more like loose sherry?" I asked myself. "Or shall it be about the decline in standards of conversation in the waiting rooms?" Or shall I complain as entertainingly as I can about all the fuss which these days attends the annual non-event we call "the Budget"?

"These days," said decline, "any more".... such are the key words and phrases we should look for, warns Dr Brown: early tell-tales of the onset of a malady which in its final stages mutates into a kind of rabies with the columnist ranting: "why oh why?", "whatever happened to...?", "good old-fashioned", and the like. All hope is by then lost. The terminal moment is when the patient begins a discourse on the subject of declining standards of punctuation in modern life.

And columnists do no more than to reflect the quirks of their readers. British audiences want to hear about how things are, not what they once were. Try, "as an MP", telling a village hall full of your constituents that crime is not on the increase in their area, even when it clearly is not, and you are in for a rude reception. Try reminding them that the rate at which young people are being driven away from their native villages and into the towns has slackened, not increased over the last three centuries. They do not wish to hear it.

For seven years as an MP I was reminded by each day's positing that a great many old men and women alive today are barely literate. By each election's doorstep canvassing I was reminded that they did not seem to teach manners any more successfully in 1920 than they do now. There is nothing ruder than a rude old man voting Labour on a Chesterfield council estate. By comparison, the glue-sniffing dropout of the 1980s scaled no more than the foothills of discourtesy. Labour candidates chased down gravel drives by the well-fed dogs of well-fed Tories will confirm that boorishness is not confined to one class or party. They will confirm, too, that older people are the worst offenders. I simply do not believe that people are getting any ruder. Yet we are gripped by the unreasoned but powerful sense that we live in the shadow of a golden age, recently passed.

This is especially true of education. It is always the "old grammar schools" with which the modern comprehensive is compared, never the secondary modern schools. Everyone seems to have forgotten that more than half the nation had to settle for these. Reading D. H. Lawrence's awful experiences as a young teacher of urban schools in the Midlands, I have the impression that "inner-city sink comprehensive" is only a new tag, not a new phenomenon.

Here, then, precisely as hand-written, is an extract from the school record of Eton village school, in 1898. Eton was and is a medium-sized village in the

Peak District of Derbyshire. Neither rich nor exceptionally poor, its inhabitants must mostly have been engaged in agricultural labour, lead-mining or quarrying.

August 30th: "Frederick Albert Jackson took charge of this school this morning, assisted by Mrs Jackson." (The record implies that there were no other staff. There were 115 pupils.)

August 31st: "The late master has taken away the Time Table, but as near as can be ascertained from the children the old Time Table is being adhered to."

September 3rd: "The working of the school has been made very difficult, the retiring master having taken away much of the apparatus (sic). There is not any ink, no cotton, no needles and he has taken the arithmetic books away.... Standards VII cannot do 'Sticks'. Stand V & VI cannot do 'Proportion'. Stand IV cannot do reduction or Avoidure Wp (sic) or Long Measure. The recitation of Stand III & upwards is not completed. Stand IV, V & VI have only learned 20 lines of their Recitation. The object lessons and history stories have not been gone through and Scale drawing in Stand IV is entirely unknown. The Rev J. Johnson denies statement re providing sewing materials.... I informed the managers there is very little coal for school fires."

The school was in a mess. The truancy record shows an attendance of 88 per cent, which seems to be regarded as satisfactory. That was nearly a century ago. I have just walked past the school. It has improved beyond all recognition.



IRON OR STRAW?

After the Iron Lady, the Man of Straw? This is apparently to be the Labour party's campaign slogan over the coming months. In polls published over last weekend, John Major is portrayed as "dithering" and undecided over what to do over the poll tax. His budget is seen as insufficient to conquer recession. He himself responded with a confident speech to party workers gathered in Southport. He borrowed clothes from all round the political shop, more privatisation from the Thatcherites, consumerism from the Liberals Democrats, high quality public services from Labour. But he did not set his man of straw image aflame, an image as irksome as the "grey suit" to his self-esteem.

Images do not need to be fair or accurate to stick. Mr Major has a hard act to follow. Margaret Thatcher's image might have been a drag on her party — the polls suggest the Conservatives would be even worse off if she were still leader — but it was cast in stone. The electorate could take it or leave it. It was not open to periodic adaptation. Mr Major is still an uncertain political product, putty ready to be shaped.

Nothing shapes a prime minister in the public's mind more than the handling of the early events of his office. Mr Major was handed the Gulf war on a plate by his predecessor. His handling of the war was immaculate. He was admirably supportive in his diplomacy, deferential to his advisers, efficient in his conduct of business and confident and calm in his public statements. The bedside manner of his impromptu Downing Street press conferences was mastery.

But the war did not present Mr Major with hard decisions. It required of him mostly just a safe pair of hands. Now the war is over and the polls have returned to normal service, events are making new demands of him. The speech on Saturday was a bold attempt to define his position as against the other main parties. While full of good sense, it could not do this. Mr Major's Conservatism is not ideologically specific. Post-Thatcherism is still an unknown quantity, but shares with other forms of post-modernism a love of the eclectic. It has no Big Idea, which is why Neil Kinnock has made such a cult of improvisation.

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doubtless be, Mr Major's building blocks have to be those of style rather than political substance. As the advertising men would say, he must not try to be what he is not, a high-profile ideological heir to Mrs Thatcher. He must build on strengths of party management, of bureaucratic leadership and of niceness. And he must use what tools are to hand, which in politics are usually those of circumstance.

The two circumstances on the political agenda, recession and poll tax, have not changed since before the Gulf war, and certainly not in their ability to damage the government. Opinion surveys suggest that the public believes neither has yet been tackled with full conviction. The sight of a government granting big pay rises to its own staff while continuing a fierce cash screw on the private sector — all the time professing "there is no alternative" — conveys an impression of new and nervous ministers taking refuge in safety-first advice from officials. But however wrong-headed the policy, Norman Lamont's increasingly confident presentation is at least lending it credibility.

Poll tax has yet to be turned to advantage. It seems to retain its poison. The nettle has been grasped but, as Michael Heseltine has been admitting, it has yet to be rooted out. The glaring contrast of "everybody must contribute" (Mr Lamont) as against only "those who could afford to pay" (Mr Heseltine) shows the extent of the fudge which lay behind Mr Heseltine's statement last Thursday.

Poll tax still offers Mr Major a golden opportunity to build on his strengths, to show himself as an emphatic leader not a nervous business manager. The tax was a mistake in whose rectification he must take credit. He has spent huge sums of public money reducing the probable size of any replacement: he could spend more, if he wishes, to help losers. But he knows what must be done and, with a loyal cabinet, he has the political means to ensure it is done. The poll tax may be dead. But the public is being asked to take that on trust. It will clearly not do so until Mr Major holds up the whole corpse. Then he can claim to be a man of iron, not of straw.

EASTERN FRAGILITY

Noble and generous were the sentiments expressed by Vaclav Havel, the Czechoslovak President, in his speech at Nato headquarters in Brussels last week. His praise of Nato's part in "preserving a large part of Europe from totalitarian rule" was unstinting enough to shame some of his admirers in the West. Not many Western statesmen are in the habit of offering such handsome apologies for the lies of their predecessors.

President Havel's warnings were more remarkable still. Having just endured blows at the hands of Slovak protestors, the man who did so much to liberate his critics recalled the dangers of leaving "fragile" states to kick their heels in the antechamber of capitalist Europe. "Instability, poverty, misfortune and disorder in the countries that have rid themselves of despotic rule could threaten the West, just as did the arsenals of former despotic governments."

Mr Havel's interlocutors in Brussels, both at the European Commission and Nato, are reported to have listened sympathetically to his pleas. Like President Walesa of Poland, who is now in America on a similar conscience-pricking mission, he knows how to make a virtue of weakness. For the sake of restoring his republic's reputation, a Havel or a Walesa will sacrifice everything but his dignity. Both men, for example, have made a point of burying old enmities with Germany. Yet neither Mr Havel's elegant understatement nor Mr Walesa's earthy bluntness will suffice to persuade Brussels and Washington that Eastern Europe is now part of the West.

The reason is that the resurfacing of nationalism, which East Europeans cite as evidence that urgent action is needed, tends

only to deter West Europeans and Americans from undertaking anything so radical as a formal commitment to extend the Atlantic alliance or to remove tariffs and quotas.

Slovak nationalists demand that the present federal republic, which has already taken devolution as far as possible short of dissolving the federation, should be broken into its Czech and Slovak parts, one having about ten million, the other half that.

Slovak separatism could have a domino effect, leading to instability and the threat of a return to undemocratic regimes. Western investors are thus inclined to risk their capital elsewhere. If the West is to be wooed by the "Czech and Slovak Federal Republic", the two peoples have no option but self-restraint from Slovaks and a supreme humility from their more numerous Czech counterparts. The same applies to east-central Europe in general: the price of redrawing the 1945 borders, however unjust, is so high that even the most impassioned nationalist must reject it. There is no comparison between the struggle of the republics of the Soviet Union for independence, and the family quarrels of Czechs and Slovaks, each of whom enjoys a wide measure of autonomy.

This week Mr Havel's formidable finance minister, Vaclav Klaus, is visiting London. Mr Klaus is the second most powerful man in Prague. British ministers should listen carefully, for nobody knows better than he what the West can contribute to Eastern Europe. But Mr Klaus should return home with the same lesson now bitterly sinking into former East Germany. Outsiders can offer the "know-how" of economic resurgence. But the hard work must be strictly home-grown.

CORNERING TROLLOPE

There is no damned merit in posthumous literary popularity. Sherlock Holmes, and for that matter Mutant Ninja Turtles, have bigger fan clubs than Pickwick or Fanny Hill. At least four 19th-century novelists come above Anthony Trollope in a vulgar league table of literary merit, but this is not the day to pass such a disabbling judgement.

The Trollope Society, the liveliest collection of groupies between hard covers, is holding its annual dinner in the Reform Club tonight with feasting and speeches to commemorate the archetypal English novelist. The society wants its hero admitted to Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, and claims the support in that cause of Norma Major, a member and the prime minister's wife.

Dickens drew more memorable and extraordinary characters than Trollope. Jane, as her fans call her, was more subtle. George Eliot had more moral and social passion. At least two of the Brontë sisters conveyed human emotion more deeply. What leaves Trollope unsurpassed was his catching the nuances and interplay of ordinary English characters. He is the gossip and the poet of the everyday.

Trollope retreated from an unhappy youth into the minds and bodies of those he witnessed round him every day. He is loved for his English qualities, his prodigious industry, his professionalism, his good nature, his humour and his decency, as well as for introducing, as a post office civil servant, that most English piece of street

furniture, the red pillarbox.

Trollope is the ideal novelist for a prime minister and a prime minister's wife to take on their well-earned break. He dramatises an ironic detachment from the stresses of public life. Mr Major's immediate predecessor apparently took thrillers on holiday as a grudging break from her red boxes. Mrs Major will presumably have none of this and will remind her husband of that most relaxing of prime ministers, Macmillan, with his awful joke: "I'm off to bed with a Trollope."

But which Trollope? That named after his office, *The Prime Minister*, would be balm to his weary soul. Here is the most searching study of the interaction of private temperament and public pressure. Plantagenet Palliser, now Duke of Omnium, a chancellor obsessed with decimalisation, upright, decent and diffident, is called upon to form a coalition government. Palliser worries about being a wet do-nothing "faintest ruler". But Trollope suggests that a faintest government is not the worst government that England can have. To him, the great fault of politicians is that they want to do too much.

British politics has changed from the world of dukes and silk hats and clunkers to the world of grey suits, television studios and PR advisers. But Trollope's urbane message, no small asset to Poets' Corner, is that there is more to the good life than politics. It still applies — especially during recess and especially to prime ministers.

Anomalies in the Budget measures

From the Chairman of Northumbrian Fine Foods plc

Sir, After the Budget broadcast on Tuesday I heard Francis Maude, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, declare: "There is no VAT on food". This myth was repeated in yesterday's *Times* by your economics editor.

There is VAT on much food and the government benefits hugely from it. For example, there is no VAT on chocolate cakes but there is on chocolate biscuits; no VAT on plain biscuits but there is on cereal bars; no VAT on smoked salmon but there is on potato crisps; no VAT on flapjacks but there is on Mars bars; no VAT on a Swiss roll, but there is on Jaffa cakes.

In my view there should either be VAT on all food or none and the government should stop claiming there is no VAT on food.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ADAMS, Chairman,
Northumbrian Fine Foods plc,
Dukeway, Team Valley,
Tyne and Wear,
March 22.

From Mr J. H. Baird

Sir, One of the justifications for transferring more of the tax burden to VAT is that those who spend more will contribute more and, with many essentials zero rated, it is almost a matter of choice how much of this tax one pays.

But VAT does not always discriminate between essentials and luxuries of choice. Unless Parliament decrees otherwise the extra VAT will be charged on the fees of veterinary surgeons tending to the illnesses and injuries of companion animals. Can an increased tax on the relief of animal suffering really be desirable?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES H. BAIRD
(Chief Executive),
British Veterinary Association,
7 Mansfield Street, W1,
March 21.

From Mrs S. E. Curtis

Sir, The non-recoverable VAT I must pay on a printing job I am buying has just jumped by £79.38, putting my profit margin down by the best part of a whole percentage point.

I am not sure how this is so helpful to a very small non-VAT business like mine.

Yours sincerely,
SALLY CURTIS,
Church Cottage, Titchborne,
Alresford, Hampshire,
March 19.

From Mr Ian White

Sir, Mr Lamont's mobile phone tax sits under the weight of anomalies. Does it apply only to cellular phones? If so will Telepoint handsets and, in time, PCN (personal communications networks) phones be also surcharged?

If mobile phones are perceived as a perk, what about employees who make personal calls on desktop telephones? Will they too be taxed? If not, why not? If an employee's tax is based on only business calls, will a rebate be allowed? If not, what is the precedent for taxing business equipment? If employees are given portable computers, will they too be taxed? If not, why not?

If Mr Lamont is so worried about road safety then he can propose a law to ban the use of phone handsets in cars. If he wants silence in restaurants patronised by mobile

Energy at a price

From Professor Ian Fells, FENG

Sir, Now that National Power and Power Gen have been successfully privatised and the multitude of small investors are well on their way to a modest profit, the time is right to look at the market-led energy supply system we have constructed.

Will it be secure and will energy be available at a reasonable price to consumers? Not if the recently announced rise of 35 per cent in the price of natural gas to electricity generators is anything to go by, justified by British Gas who are concerned about the availability of gas in the mid-nineties.

Several of us predicted that as generators turned with relief to environmentally friendlier gas as a short-term solution to their acid rain and greenhouse pollution problems, the price would go up. Is this what paying the cost of protecting the environment means, more profit for British Gas shareholders? Surely not!

Salisbury Close

From the Duke of Grafton

Sir, I have served for many years on the Historic Buildings Council and its successor, the Historic Buildings Advisory Committee of English Heritage, the Cathedrals Advisory Commission, and the Royal Fine Art Commission.

The former two bodies, in conjunction with the dean and chapter of Salisbury Cathedral, have paid for the report which is causing so much concern (details and leading article, February 27; *Times*, March 7, 8, 14, 21; article, March 15). It should be stressed that this has always been regarded as a consultation document.

It is precisely because of the unique importance of the close at Salisbury and because of the great variety of problems, of which traffic is the most serious, that the organisations with which I am concerned have urged the dean and chapter to commission this comprehensive report, setting out all the options of the suggested new southern road is only one.

phone users he can complain to the head waiter.

Mr Lamont's tax on mobile phones is an unjustified reaction to the incorrect media stereotype of their use by unattractive City types. It is ill-considered and ill-conceived. It should be scrapped without delay.

Yours etc.,
IAN WHITE (Managing Editor),
Mobile Business,
Fennell Publications Ltd.,
134 Fetherston Road, N5,
March 19.

From the Director General of the Automobile Association

Sir, The Chancellor, like his predecessors, has penalised company-car drivers by refusing to recognise the difference between "work" and "perk" and by increasing an already unfair assessment of the benefit of private mileage.

There are about 4.5 million business or company cars registered in the UK. Most are work vehicles run by people in self-employment. They are taxed, under Schedule D, on the exact amount of private mileage that they cover.

About 1.9 million cars render their drivers liable to scale taxation under Schedule E. The AA estimates that 5 per cent of these vehicles are used only for personal journeys, and a further 20 per cent are used more for private motoring than for business. The remaining 75 per cent are driven mainly for work purposes. Yet virtually all drivers on Schedule E are taxed on a common, and unrealistic, valuation of the private-use benefit.

The average Schedule E company car does 12,000 business miles and 8,000 private miles a year. The assumed benefit of the private use has now been increased to £2,650 — and drivers pay tax on that sum. Yet to lease an equivalent car for 20,000 miles a year costs around £4,000, and 40 per cent of that is only £1,600. So the average company car driver now pays tax on £1,050 more than necessary.

It is time that company car tax moved to a system which exactly taxes the private benefit.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON DYER, Director General,
The Automobile Association,
Farnham House,
Basingstoke, Hampshire,
March 19.

From Mr Albert S. Bedwell

Sir, The increase in business rate on my office in St Albans this year has been 33 per cent at a time when survival, not profits, is the order of the day.

Businessmen do not join protest marches or refuse to pay; they just go out of business. Is this why the government has taken no action to reduce this punitive tax?

Yours faithfully,
ALBERT S. BEDWELL
(Chartered Architect),
14 Gonservans,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
March 22.

From Mr John Brinkley

Sir, In his Budget speech the Chancellor said he hoped that by taxing mobile phones he will help to make restaurants quieter. Most of us in the trade feel he has given us quite enough help as it is.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BRINKLEY,
Chapter 11 Restaurant,
47 Hollywood Road, SW10,
March 22.

And what about the absurdly younging oil price with threats of famine and glut seized on by avaricious dealers in the oil market to make a quick profit? What a way to run a wheel stall! Or perhaps it is appropriate to running wheel stalls but not to managing an indispensable but finite resource which must be conserved for environmental reasons as well as long-term availability.

The much-vaunted market mechanism leads us into absurdity and error in the case of energy supply as these two examples show. The followers of Adam Smith would do well to re-read *The Wealth of Nations* where he points out that injuries to society can arise from free enterprise and they must be controlled by the State.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FELLS,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Chemical and Process Engineering,
Merz Court, Newcastle upon Tyne,
March 13.

So important is it, however, to the traffic problem that the dean and chapter have had to buy the land now to enable this even to be an option.

It seems to me that nothing can be more damaging towards finding a solution than this flood of ill-informed comment and I should like to make it clear that the three bodies which I represent have warmly welcomed the report as a start towards solving the problems of Salisbury.

Yours faithfully,
GRAFTON,
Euston Hall, Thetford,
Norfolk.

From the Headmaster of Bishop Wordsworth's School
Sir, I was intrigued to discover that Jonathan Meades (article, March 15) proposes to banish my school from Salisbury Close where, whatever he may believe, it has been firmly established since John Wordsworth founded it in 1890.

No one would dispute that few of its buildings add anything to the

Equality for girls in coeducation

From the Head Master of Rugby School

Sir, Like Enid Castle (March 19), I value girls' schools. I also value boys' schools. The more good schools there are in the country the better. Miss Castle ought to be pleased, however, that Rugby is moving away from the artificial situation of having 100 girls in the sixth form of a predominantly male school — a situation which has had headmistresses sharpening their quills for years.

Some of the disadvantages (for girls) that Miss Castle mentions are certainly apparent in such an arrangement; she no doubt knows, however, that even with these disadvantages Rugby has three girls applying for every sixth-form place it offers.

After 15 years of this it is time for Rugby to set about educating boys and girls in the same way. Of course a school with 250 girls and 500 boys is not fully coeducational but it already represents such a massive shift in Rugby's outlook that it simply will not be possible for boys to dominate and predominate in the way that Miss Castle fears.

The staff, who are right behind coeducation and who have plenty of time to train for it, will not let that happen. I shall of course be appointing housemistresses and good women to senior posts — provided that they are the best applicants.

There is no fixed quota of boys to girls and with time, patience and hard work Rugby will make coeducation work superbly well. The benefits to the girls will be the same as those for boys: working and making things happen together; an immensely capable teaching staff; far-reaching projects, expeditions and trips; splendid facilities and the impulse to use them; a sense of tradition and of discovery; well-coached games; the possibility of sensible fun and friendships; and the long-term likelihood of happy marriage and parenthood if that is what is chosen.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAJOR, Head Master,
Rugby School,
Warwickshire,
March 21.

From the Master of Marlborough College

Sir, A majority of boys in a co-educational school does not in itself create any disadvantage for girls, provided that both girls and boys feel wholly confident about the girls' membership of the school on equal terms with the boys. At Marlborough this confidence was rapidly established. Full coeducation is about equality of opportunity to

A woman scorned?

From Mrs L. Carter

Sir, Your report (March 15) of Ms Anna Ford's "fury unleashed on BBC chauvinism" shows that she quite misunderstands the subject. It is the media as a whole, not just the BBC, that tend to distance any suggestion that women should have an equal voice in current affairs and seek to trivialise their role.

As witness, your own article speaks of "the snow of David Dimbleby, Peter Snow and Peter Sissons", and then goes on to refer to "Ms Ford, the 48-year-old newsreader". Women's ages, it seems, must always be given to show that they are always too old, or too young according to current prejudice.

Yours faithfully,
LOUISE CARTER,
6 Watford Road,
Radlett, Hertfordshire,
March 15.

Bank appointments

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, Your headline (March 13) is right to be concerned that the Midland Bank has to recruit a new chief executive from outside its own employees.

The bank's report for 1989 showed that there were then 100 employees receiving more pay than the prime minister's allowance.

From such an obvious galaxy of top talent surely there must have been one worthy of advancement to the top post.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
57 Tyeburn Hill,
Loughton,
Essex,
March 22.

quality of the close, but everyone associated with the school is determined to rebuild it on its present site, in a style worthy of its setting, within the next five years.

The alternative development for the site, presented as a possibility in the Rothermel Thomas report but not recommended by its authors, involves the replacement of the school by office blocks and housing, an alternative hardly likely to guarantee building of distinction.

It seems strange that Mr Meades wishes to deprive more than 600 pupils of my school of the "incomparable gift" of acquaintance with the close, which he enjoyed, as do the 200 or so present pupils of his former school. He has acknowledged that he has indulged in special pleading. Perhaps he should continue to devote himself to writing about the pleasures of the table for which he is so abundantly equipped.

I am yours faithfully,
R. G. EVANS, Headmaster,
Bishop Wordsworth's School,
The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
March 19.

excel and to take responsibility; it is not a matter merely of numbers.

How will Miss Castle measure the "domination" of girls by boys in the classroom? In December 1990 our girls, then outnumbered three to one by boys, collected more than a third of the academic prizes awarded across the whole curricular spectrum.

What, secondly, is her evidence for stating that in coeducational schools boys' interests will "undoubtedly predominate" in sport? Girls' sport at Marlborough is flourishing: in the past year girls have achieved county representation in athletics, cross-country, hockey, lacrosse and tennis, and excelled in gymnastics at national level.

What crystal ball, thirdly, revealed to Miss Castle that in co-educational schools men will continue to take "all or nearly all" of the senior posts? So far, the evidence does not support her.

There are indeed many excellent girls' schools. A case can legitimately be made for single-sex education. Its champions in the girls' schools will make it more effectively if they concentrate on explaining its positive benefits.

Why is it that despite the claimed advantages for girls in schools like Miss Castle's, and the claimed disadvantages for girls in schools like mine, more and more parents prefer coeducation for their daughters? And what will be the consequence for many girls' schools if Marlborough and schools like it do eventually offer half their places to girls?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COPE, The Master,
Marlborough College,
Wiltshire,
March 21.

From Mrs S. R. Campion

Sir, On March 16 we held the inaugural meeting of the Association of Maintained Girls' Schools. Seventy per cent of the schools attending are oversubscribed. Yet local authorities are closing girls' schools at the drop of the Audit Commission's hat. How are we to preserve the parental freedom of choice so often invoked by all the political parties?

Girls' schools are not an anachronism. The confidence and calibre of the coming generation of girls are crucial to this nation's future. These qualities thrive in all my members' schools.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN CAMPION
(Chairman, Association of Maintained Girls' Schools),
Woodford County High School,
High Road, Woodford Green, Essex,
March 19.

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March 19.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN CAMP

A chance to see the doctor

Jonathan Miller is once again bridging the gap between medicine and showbiz

The best-known "Bushisms" include several phrases invented by Ms Noonan for his 1988 election campaign that have slipped into everyday language. Among them are "Read my lips — no new taxes"; "kinder, gentler nation"; and "one thousand points of light". Asked to name the best since Mr Bush took office, Mr Smith lists "a Europe whole and free", inspired by the fall of the Berlin Wall; the domestic anti-drug "Take back the streets"; and the Gulf war's "Naked aggression will not stand". Mr Bush's detractors prefer his off-the-cuff and oft-quoted "deep doo-doo".

Writer's role: Mary Kate Grant and Curt Smith are regarded as "people of character" who do not blab

The president arrived late in the Hungarian capital as a crowd of well-wishers waited for a rainstorm. Their spirits dissolved when the rainstorm launched into a rambling 30-minute welcome. Mr Bush stood up, sensed the crowd's impatience to get home and ripped up his speech cards. Mr Smith gasped in disbelief as he watched the event live on television. The audience was ecstatic.

Once home, Mr Bush sent Mr Smith a signed photograph of himself holding the writer's shredded handiwork in the air. "Dear Curt," it says. "It's raining in Budapest. I'll swing it."

grally with provision for dis-
ablement. "I didn't have to
think twice," he says. "My
mother died of Alzheimer's
disease some years ago, and I
am president of the Alzheim-
er's Disease Society. But I
think I would have done it
without any personal link. If
they get more viewers because
it is presented by someone
who has public face, that is
obviously worthwhile."
"The series happens to be
enormously engaging, amus-
ing and exciting. We hope to
draw in an audience much
wider than those who are
directly involved today in
problems of this kind. One
way or another, most of us are
going to get involved in this at
some time in our lives."

HIS long-projected scheme for
a television series on the
history of madness will be an
expression of the same pre-
occupations — if it ever comes
to fruition. His wife, Rachel, still
practices as a family doctor in
north London. As our inter-
view ends, Dr Miller lopes off
restlessly in search of a taxi, to
look in on her between-ap-
pointment consultations, and
possibly as he goes: "She's the one
in the family who does the real
work."

GEORGE HILL

● *Who Cares Now?* will be
transmitted in seven parts, at
5pm on Tuesdays on BBC2,
from April 9. An information
book will be published, priced £1,
from *"Who Cares Now?"*. BBC
Education, London W12 7JR.

ES
ONAL SUPPLEMENT

But the rest of the year their unions compete for members by offering insurance, legal advice and 'freebies'. This Friday The TES investigates.

Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, juvenile, scholarly and religious works etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free booklet K55. Vantage Press, 516 W 34th Street, New York, N.Y. 10001 U.S.A.

tes
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

With a little hype from . . .

- David Robinson traces the often laborious road that leads to an Oscar nomination
- Richard Morrison (below) has the odds on this year's likely winners and losers
- Matt Wolf (right) has a form guide to dark horses

Merit brings its own rewards no doubt, but where the Oscars are concerned, hype helps. Oscar nominations are made by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which, with fewer than 100 voting members, is a great deal easier to lobby than the academy, and the smart Oscar aspirants lobby hard. A decade or so ago it was common for producers to send voters champagne, but this is nowadays considered a trifle indecorous, as well as costly and possibly counterproductive.

The announcement of the Oscar nominations in February sets off fresh activity. Nominated films will often receive a new exhibition boost, partly to take advantage of the publicity value of nomination, but also to give the titles still further exposure.

For the benefit of academy voters, this year, *The Godfather Part III* had slipped at the box office, but was opened on more than 700 extra screens following its Best Film nomination. At the beginning of March, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, with a Best Actress nomination for Joanne Woodward, went from 35 screens to 200 screens; and *The Nasty Girl*, a foreign-language nomination, from 9 to 25. The same pattern was followed by other nominees such as *The Grifters* and the Irish film *The Field*, which had a Best Actor nomination for Richard Harris. *Longtime Companion*, with a Best Supporting Actor nomination for Bruce Davison, had already ended its run but was released by the Goldwyn Company.

Nominations have less effect on exhibition patterns of the assured blockbusters, of course. There would be little point in giving extra exposure to *Ghost*. The latter's inclusion in the nominations reflects the plain-punter mentality of academy members. At this stage the distribution of videos and literature is dramatically stepped up. The distributors of *Metropolitan* (nominated for Best Original Screenplay) accompanied cassettes with tea-bags.

Variety recently published a collection of tell-all recollections of publicity campaigns which had served to win nominations, if not always the trophy itself. In 1945 Hedda Hopper was persuaded to run a story tipping Joan Crawford as an Oscar favourite when her film *Mildred Pierce* had only just been started. On the

other hand, a 1947 campaign which involved the publication of a wholly bogus odds-maker's list of Oscar favourites, putting Rosalind Russell as odds-on favourite for the awful *Mourning Becomes Electra*, was abortive.

Sally Kirkland is a more recent example of an actress who fought her way to nomination with the help of an astute publicity agent and aggressive lobbying. Kirkland personally met every single member of the Foreign Press Association, won her Golden Globe, and then went on to concentrate on the actors' branch of the academy. She did win her nomination but, competing with Cher, Meryl Streep, Glenn Close and Holly Hunter, failed to get her hands on the all-

important trophy itself. Kirkland's performance in the somewhat modest *Anna* certainly deserved to be in this company, but as certainly would not have been there without her personal hype campaign. Equally, *My Left Foot*, however worthy of its Oscars last year for the performances of Daniel Day-Lewis and Brenda Fricker, had been launched on the American market with little expense or publicity, and might well have been overlooked.

The distributors, Miramax, credit the film's dark-horse win to the efforts of Noel Pearson and Jim Sheridan, the Irish producer and director, who spent most of December and January last year in Hollywood, energetically making friends and influencing

people. Miramax admits that it did not hurt the campaign when Day-Lewis attracted attention with a speech in Washington on behalf of the Disabilities Act.

The members of the academy each receive a note with their nomination papers warning them against "advertisements, promotional gifts, dinner invitations and other lobbying tactics in an attempt to solicit your vote".

In any case, everybody—academy voters, publicists and Oscar candidates alike—agrees that no amount of lobbying will win a nomination or an award if the performance is not there to justify it. At the same time, nobody ever denies that, but for the Oscar hype, many a lesser light would stay hidden under its bushel.

THIS year, scattered among the Thespian "bests" is a quartet of names that may mean nothing to British viewers. Who, after all, are Kathy Bates and Annette Bening, the women cited for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress for their performances in *Misery* and *The Grifters* respectively? And what about Bruce Davison (*Longtime Companion*) or Mary McDonnell (*Dances With Wolves*), supporting performer nominees not much more widely known in America than they are here?

The answer lies in the fact that all four are theatre people who have been snapped up by Hollywood following their successes on stage. Collectively they form part of that next generation of De Niro and Streep, stage actors turned Hollywood stars, in a scenario which accounts for more of today's leading Los Angeles talents than the Schwab's dragstore rise to glory associated with the era of Lana Turner. Nobody's current prominence is more surprising than that of 42-year-old Kathy Bates, since she is exactly the kind of prodigiously gifted but ungainly actress Hollywood often ignores. Fleshy and big-boned, Bates has an electrifying integrity that has served her well on the New York stage; still director Rob Reiner took a chance casting her as the murderous nurse in *Misery*.

The performance won her the Golden Globe for best actress (drama) in January, and she is the dark horse candidate tonight if Anjelica Huston and Joanne Woodward—the expected favourites—split the vote. Her new-found fame, however, is no guarantee, as Bates found out when director Garry Marshall (*Pretty Woman*) was casting the film version of Bates' off-Broadway *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. The role was a triumph for Bates in New York and required somebody truthful but distinctly ungainly.

Who, then, was cast for the film? Michelle Pfeiffer. Bates, however, may be too busy to

get upset, since she is now filming another play she did in New York: Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca*.

Last summer, Mary McDonnell, 37, was the fourth and final star of Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles* before the play ended its successful Broadway run. If the producers had waited two more months, they could have profited from McDonnell's current exposure as Kevin Costner's love interest in *Dances With Wolves*. Otherwise, a role in John Sayles's *Maremma* excepted, McDonnell's acting life has been spent largely in regional theatres across America. Bates and McDonnell both had a considerable number of New York stage credits before Hollywood took notice of them. Annette Bening, on the other hand, came to New York from San Francisco in 1986, got a Tony nomination for her first play there, in Tina Howe's *Costa! Disturbances*, and now seems to be in virtually every other film that is made. She was Milos Forman's Marquise in the ill-fated *Valmont*, but had better luck with her scene-stealing cameo opposite Meryl Streep in *Postcards from the Edge* and as the lubricious Myra Langtry in *The Grifters*. "Annette has such an obviously shining talent," says *Grifters* director Stephen Frears, which may explain why she is in four films to come.

Bruce Davison made an early mark as the baby-faced lead in films such as *Last Summer* and *Willard*, but it took the theatre to revive a career that had lost momentum. On Broadway in the 1980s he starred in *The Elephant Man* and opposite Jessica Tandy in *The Glass Menagerie*, and had a long run off-Broadway and in Los Angeles in A.R. Gurney's *The Cocktail Hour*. In *Longtime Companion* he joins a cast of stage actors in a film which, after all, was written and directed by a leading team from New York theatre.

MATT WOLF



Multiple contenders: Kevin Costner carrying Mary McDonnell in a scene from Costner's *Dances With Wolves*

To the screen in easy stages

THIS year, scattered among the Thespian "bests" is a quartet of names that may mean nothing to British viewers. Who, after all, are Kathy Bates and Annette Bening, the women cited for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress for their performances in *Misery* and *The Grifters* respectively? And what about Bruce Davison (*Longtime Companion*) or Mary McDonnell (*Dances With Wolves*), supporting performer nominees not much more widely known in America than they are here?

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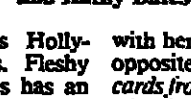
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MATT WOLF



Mary McDonnell (top picture) and Kathy Bates



Everybody agrees that no amount of lobbying will win if the performance is not there to justify it

Better off not risking a stake



Claire here: Jeremy Irons as enigmatic Claire von Bulow

A FORM guide to the Academy Awards is about as useful a document as the horoscope I was sold on Brighton Pier in 1963, which predicted a life of sporting achievement and adventure. The Oscars are the ultimate horse-race, though of course the studs, drugs and nobbling of the average Dick Francis thriller have no equivalent in Hollywood.

No sir, the movie industry is, in Tallulah Bankhead's words, as pure as the driven slush. But for those wishing to flatter on the runners, here is a précis of informed opinion on the likely winners tonight in the Shrine Auditorium. The London odds quoted are from William Hill. Best Picture: Kevin Costner's revisionist Western *Dances With Wolves* wears its white liberal penitence towards Native America like sackcloth. Not since 1931 have cowboys 'n' Indians carried off the Best Picture, but with 12 nominations *Dances* seems set to suffer gladly the bows and arrows of outrageous good fortune.

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Best Actress: Surely they cannot give it to Meryl Streep again; after all, in *Postcards from the Edge* she does not even attempt a Polish accent. Yet Mike Nichols' brittle comedy of Hollywood relationships will undoubtedly strike a chord with academy members, and Streep's performance is at 9-2 in London. Clear favourites, however, are Kathy Bates (5-4) for her performance in Rob Reiner's *Misery*, and Joanne Woodward (evens in Las Vegas, 3-1 in London) for her lovely portrayal of the lonely wife in James Ivory's *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge*. Also in the frame are Anjelica Huston (11-4), as a betting-odds fixer in Stephen Frears' *The Grifters*, and Julia Roberts (8-1), the pretty woman of *Pretty Woman*.

Best Director: No London odds on these, but Las Vegas has Kevin Costner (*Dances With Wolves*) as evens favourite, and last week Costner picked up the Best Director award from the Directors Guild of America. However, admirers of murky interiors and even murkier motives will be rooting for Francis Ford Coppola (6-5 for *The Godfather Part III*), and Martin Scorsese is also a front-runner (3-1, *GoodFellas*). Stephen Frears (10-1, *The Grifters*) and Barbet Schroeder (5-1, *Reversal of Fortune*) are long-shots.

Best Actor: Some divergence in betting here: William Hill patriotically has Jeremy Irons (11-8) as favourite to win a first Best Actor award for his emerald-and-ice portrayal of Claus von Bulow in Barbet Schroeder's *Reversal of Fortune*. Las Vegas, however, puts Kevin Costner (*Dances With Wolves*) and the much-Oscared Robert De Niro (*Awakenings*) as joint favourites.

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RICHARD MORRISON

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ROBERT DOWD
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JULIAN GLOVER
Gloucester
SHERIDAN
Prince Hal
MICHAEL SHAMON
Sir John Falstaff
ROBERT DOWD
Housheer
GUY DAVIS
Ladies
CATHARINE DUFFY
Housheer
PHILIPPA
Directed by
JOHN BOYNTON
Set design by
BOB BOYNTON
Costume design by
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MARCH 25 1991

G offer
£50,000
pay-off
reduce
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By TIM JONES
EMPLOYMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT
ERS and staff of
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on are being offered
any redundancy pay
of up to £50,000
a rising deficit that
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cutting measure in
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Briton kills
in Australia

A murder enquiry
in Australia
has been launched
after a British
man who emigrated
to Australia in 1960
was found dead
in a remote area
of the state of
Victoria. The
victim, who was
found by a local
hunter, was
identified as
David John
Henderson, 47,
of London. He
had been in
Australia for
30 years and
was a well-known
figure in the
local community.

Boy missing

A 12-year-old boy
has been missing
for over 24 hours.
He was last seen
on the morning of
March 24. The boy
is from a family
in the north of
England. He is
5ft 6in tall, with
brown hair and
blue eyes. He is
wearing a blue
sweater and blue
jeans. Anyone
who has seen him
or has any information
about his whereabouts
should contact the
police on 0161 275 4444.

Harrods cat

A cat named
"Harrods" has
been found.
The cat was
lost by a woman
who works at
Harrods. The cat
is a black and
white cat, about
10 years old. It
is very friendly
and loves to be
petted. Anyone
who has seen it
or has any information
about its whereabouts
should contact the
woman on 0161 275 4444.

BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.15 Killy. Robert Killy-Sak chairs a topical discussion
10.00 News and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 The Family News (r)
10.35 Going for Gold (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today. Adrian
Mills and Dewi Jones with a report on the injuries of adoption
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Wildlife Gems. Classic
moments from the BBC's Natural History archives 12.20 Scene
Today 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax)



'Testing contestants' vocabulary: Rob Curling (1.50pm)

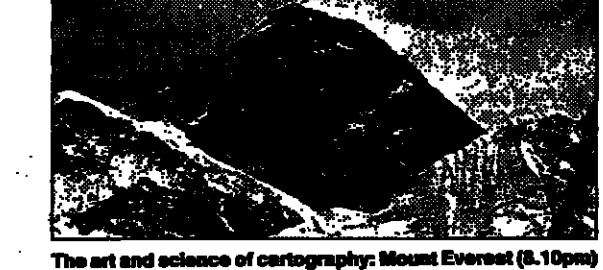
1.50 Turnabout. Rob Curling presents the first of a new word quiz
game. (Cee-fax)
2.15 Starkey and Hutch: The Omega Tiger (r) 3.00 Head of the Class
featuring Howard Hester. A comedy series about a teacher who
3.25 Buzzard. Nerys Hughes presents the handy hints show
3.50 Radio Roo. Last of the children's comedy series about a kangaroo
4.05 Touché Turtle (r) 4.10 Jackanory. Bernard Cribbins reads
part one of *Best Friends* by Anthony Smith (r) 4.25 The New
Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) 4.35 Thundercats
4.55 Newsworld 5.05 Blue Peter. Diane-Louise Jordan scales a frozen
waterfall in Norway. (Cee-fax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland Sportsweek 5.40 Inside
Ulster.
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Moira Stuart. Weather
6.30 Regional news magazine. Northern Ireland. Neighbours
7.00 Pogon. With actor David S. Lee and his wife and two sons. A
Peters with his wife, and two more A Song For Europe hopefuls
7.30 Family Matters: Bereavement.
8.00 CHOICE: Philip Tibenham has sensitively conducted an
investigation into the different effects that bereavement can have
on youngsters. What emerges dramatically from it is that what
parents don't do to help their children come to terms with death
can have a far greater impact than anything they might do. One
mother encouraged her children to view their dead brother during
the week before his burial, and they made the goodbyes that
helped them accept the finality of his passing. Two other mothers
used to let her son attend the funeral, the other was caught out in a lie
when she said her husband, killed by the IRA, had died in a car
crash — and they paid for it by losing their children's trust and
affection. The conclusion is that school bereavement classes,
such as the one we see tonight, have much work to do

8.00 Wildlife on One: The Transformers.
8.30 CHOICE: Inappropriately, Moira Mills's otherwise admirable
film about the process of moving to the animal world finds
an analogy in the tale of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. It is much more
subtle than that, and the good-into-evil element never comes into
it. Most of us know this already, having seen countless action re-
plays of caterpillars turning into moths, and tadpoles into frogs.
Tonight, our knowledge of transformation takes several leaps
forward as the clouded salamander of Arizona sheds his gills and
develops lungs, which he uses to breathe, and the cloaked
dragonfly, which has already had four bodies, acquires a fifth
and graduates from mud to air. The commentary tends to state the
obvious. For example: "Eating something that is almost the same
size as you are, is no easy task." (Cee-fax)
8.30 Telling the Floor. Limp ballroom-based sitcom. (Cee-fax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Mervyn Lewis. (Cee-fax) Regional news
magazine.

9.30 Panorama: America's Secret War. Tom Mangold reports on
America's Gulf war intelligence-gathering operation and the role it
played in the allied victory over Iraq.
10.10 Sponser for Hire: White Knight. Private eye drama series.
11.00 When I Get to Heaven. Russian poet Nina Ruzhinskaya,
released from a Soviet labour camp five years ago, talks to Bishop
Richard Holloway about her personal relationship with God and the
poetry that sustained her through years of incarceration. Northern
Ireland. (Cee-fax)
11.30 That Week in Jerusalem. Paul Kember explores the character of
Simon Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, in the second of the daily
Holy Week series.
11.45 Advice Shop: What to do when the DSS gets it wrong (r)
12.15am Weather.

BBC 2

6.45 Open University. A new role for men. Ends at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster. A round-up of business in both houses
8.30 The Men Who Invented the 20th Century. Charles Parsons, best
known for inventing the steam turbine, did not run out of puff until
he tried to "grow" diamonds, debbled with sound amplification,
and left the world with a prototype jet gas turbine (r)
9.00 Film: Wagon Train (1940, b/w). Tim Holt stars as the leader of a
freight wagon line who rides through a host of western woes to
provide supplies to settlers. Directed by Morton Grant
10.00 Film: I See Ice. (1938, b/w). George Formby, a property man for an
ice-ballet company, finds trouble when he inadvertently films
criminals at work. With Kay Walsh and Betty Stockfield. Directed
by Anthony Kimmins
11.20 Gleason the Great. On. Snippets from *The Honeymooners* and
his performance as Minnesota Fats in *The Hustler*, in this tribute
to Jackie Gleason, show how he earned his standing as one of
America's greatest comic actors.
12.20 Chronicle: Lost City of the Incas. David Drew goes in quest of
Vikibamba — the Atlantis of the Inca world — for years thought to
be Machu Picchu, which enjoys a thriving tourist industry as a
result of its rediscovered history. But new evidence suggests the
incapital may be located elsewhere (r) 1.20 Grandchildren (r)
1.35 The Taste of Health. Healthy cooking with Judith Hearn who is
joined by Madhur Jaffrey and French chef Christopher Bay (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by Chris Ealey's Summer Season.
Punch and Judy Men (r) 2.15 Regional Westminster
Programmes (r). Northern Ireland: Growing Freedom 2.45
Craftsmen. Profile of Bob Godfrey, leading light in the craft of film
animation (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Songs of Praise from St Mary's
Church, Dundee (r) (Cee-fax) 3.35 Northern Arts. A profile of
sculptor John Akle (r) 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Paul Cole with the word game
4.30 Plunder. Naughty Nina Myskow, media personality, pulls Yernick
Noah's legs, the Congo River and Michael Palin out of Emma
Freud's Pandora's box
5.00 News headlines followed by Holiday Outings. Gillian Reynolds
visits the Loire Valley (r)
5.10 Film: Ride 'em, Cowboy (1942, b/w). Abbott and Costello quit
singing pursuits and head to the life of the land — as cowboys.
Ella Fitzgerald adds colour to standard routines singing A Ticket, A
Ticket. Directed by Arthur Lubin
6.35 DEF II begins with The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Will makes
a lasting impression on Bel-Air Academy, as well as his classmates,
when he carves his name on an antique desk 7.00 Snub. Rebel
MC, Top, Soul Family Generation, the Boo Rhythms and Wanning
Press do their right thing 7.30 Job Bank. Constantine Warrington
7.40 Countrytime: You've Got to be a Bit of a Bastard. The work of
Denise McCann, a Lake District-based fisheries inspector,
protecting the Derwent river from poachers

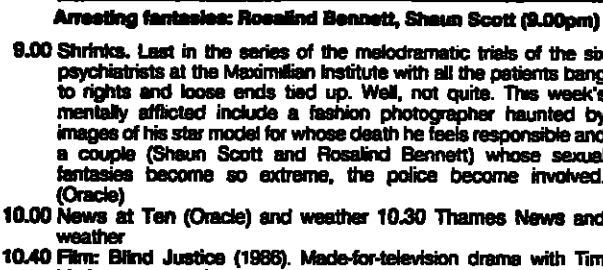


The art and science of cartography: Mount Everest (8.10pm)

8.10 Horizon: Measuring the Roof of the World.
8.30 CHOICE: Nothing is for ever — not even the authenticated
height of Everest. At the last count, it stood at 29,028ft. But, with
the Indian and Asian land masses continuing to nudge each other,
the cartographers aren't going to be allowed to rest permanently
on their laurels. We must, therefore, regard Horizon's ported
history of the mapping of Everest and its adjoining peaks as being
rather in the nature of an interim report. As such, it makes
fascinating viewing, what with the legend's summary of Sir George
Everest's ingenious system of using survey towers, Red
Washburn's aerial mapping of the Himalayas, and now satellite
telemetry incorporating computers which, though clever, are not
clever enough to get everything absolutely right
8.00 Film: Take Your Best Shot (1982). Comedy in which Meredith
Broder-Simney struggles to stay married to Robert Ulrich, who is
struggling to make it as an actor. But when she finally decides that
she must take any means to stay with him, she becomes
determined to win her back at any cost. Directed by David Greene.
(Cee-fax)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow
11.15 The Late Show. William Styron discusses his new book, *Darkness
Visible*, with Michael Ignatieff 11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Arts — What is Music? Ends at 12.30am

Channel 4

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word association game hosted by Lennie Bennett
9.55 This News and weather.
10.00 Out of This World. First of a new comedy series about Eve, a
teenager whose father is an alien. With Dorna Peacock and Doug
McClure
10.30 This Morning. Family magazine series
12.10 Rumble and Jim. For the very young (r)
12.30 News and weather 1.10 Thames News and weather
1.20 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice
2.20 Thames Help. Jackie Spectreley with ideas for special holidays
2.50 Graham Kerr prepares a healthy rich gulash
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Families.
Soap set in England and Australia
3.55 Nellie the Elephant (r) 4.05 Kranksies Television. The comic
Scottish duo meet royally in the form of Jeanette Charles, with
David and Peter Goodworth 4.30 Count Duckula (r)
5.00 Cartoon Time
5.10 Blockbusters. Bob Holmes hosts the quiz show for teenagers
5.40 News. (Cee-fax) Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Details of the Holiday Helpers scheme
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 News and weather
7.00 Watch Your Wares. ...? Judith Chalmers samples the
pleasures of Dublin, the year's European City of Culture, while
Sara Holliday and Jeremy Gittins sail down the Turkish coast and
Annette Rice takes a Club Med holiday in Nice. (Cee-fax)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Cee-fax)
8.00 The Upper Hand. Unremarkable sitcom starring Joe McGann and
Diana Weston as a female secret agent and her male housekeeper.
(Cee-fax)
8.30 World in Action: The Secret of Sebba. Colonel Gaddafi is planning
a new chemical weapon factory deep in the Libyan desert, with the
help of German business, according to *World in Action*. The
programme spent a year investigating the role of Germany in
supplying both Iraq and Libya with chemical weapons technology
and questions whether Bonn's reluctance during the Gulf war
implies at least tacit approval



Arresting fantasies: Rosalind Bennett, Shaun Scott (8.00pm)

9.00 Shrinkers. Last in the series of the melodramatic trials of the six
psychiatrists at the Maximilian Institute with all the patients bang
to rights and loose ends tied up. Well, not quite. This week's
mentally afflicted include a fashion photographer haunted by
images of his star model for whose death he feels responsible and
a couple (Shaun Scott and Rosalind Bennett) whose sexual
fantasies go so extreme, the police become involved.
(Cee-fax)
10.00 News at Ten (Cee-fax) and weather 10.30 Thames News and
weather
10.40 Film: Blind Justice (1986). Made-for-television drama with Tim
Matheson as an innocent man whose life is ruined when he is
unjustly accused of rape and murder on circumstantial evidence.
Loss of a life, didn't he say? A more thriller than a finely portrayed
of the agony suffered by the victim of a crime. The police
point are the self-satisfied police, relieved at having satisfied
the public's howling for blood, and Matheson's disbelief that he
has been singled out. Also starring Mimi Kuzky, Tom Atkins and
Lisa Eichorn. Directed by Rod Holcomb
12.30am Sportsweek Extra. Tony Francis introduces golfing action
from the Portuguese Open
1.30 Film: Uncommon Valor (1983). Not the excellent Gene Hackman
thriller of the same name and year, but a derivative, made-for-
television disaster-flick about a blazing inferno at a hospital,
started by a psychopathic arsonist. The heroic fire-fighters rush
to the scene and the standard mayhem and bravery ensues. Starring
Michael Ryan, Barbara Parkins and Ben Murphy. Directed by Rod
Holcomb
3.30 Cover Story. A profile of American actor Robert Connolly (r)
4.00 Mystery Theatre: Air's Well That Ends Strange. Life for adult
magazine publisher Wade Jeffries is an unending party until he
finds himself with a dead girl and a room full of robots programmed
to act like human beings. Starring Don Harron (r)
4.30 Bedrock. Late night rock with Ian Gillan.
5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

Channel 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Murun Buchanansangur Cartoon (r)
9.30 California Off Beat. In the first of 13 programmes on the folkies
and folkies of California, reporter Wayne Freedman explores
nose (r)
10.00 The West of the Imagination: The Romantic Horizon. The start
of a six-part series, looking at the history of the American "Wild
West" as seen through the eyes of the artists, photographers and
film-makers who have portrayed and mythologised it since the
early 20th Century (r)
11.00 The Energy Alternative: Changing the Way the World Works.
This first in a series examining new approaches to energy policies
looks at the possibility of consuming energy more efficiently so
that we use less energy but still enjoy the same standard of
living (r)
12.00 Garden Club. A repeat of last Friday's edition filmed in Northern
Ireland
12.30 Business Daily presented by Susanah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 Film: His Butler's Sister (1943, b/w). A romantic musical starring
Deanna Durbin as a small-town girl who comes to New York to
embark on a singing career and falls for composer Franchot Tone
when she takes a job working as his maid. With Pat O'Brien.
Directed by Frank Borzage
3.45 Via 4 Visa. A comedy sketch from Germany
4.00 Travlog. Robert Elms presents the final edition of the alternative
travel programme with Andy Kershaw heading off to India to
discover how visitors can meet and stay with Indian families (r)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley hosts the words and numbers quiz
show, with Brian Johnston in the Dictionary Corner
5.00 The Late Late Show. Gay Byrne presents the lively music and
chat show from Dublin
6.00 The Cosby Show. (r)
6.30 Tonight With Jonathan Ross. The guests include Tony Toller, the
man who trans the PG Tips adverts, with one of his charges. Music
is provided by S-Express
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext)
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. Liverpool soap (Teletext)
8.30 My Two Dads. Lightweight American sitcom about a teenage girl
left to two fathers in her mother's will



Human moles: Billy McLaughlin and his son Philip (8.00pm)

8.00 Cutting Edge: The Pick, The Shovel and The Open Road.
8.30 CHOICE: There's an important omission from the title of Moly
Dineen's down-to-earth (and frequently under-the-earth) film about
the Irish labourers who tunnel their way through Britain's chalk and
clay to give us gas and telephones. Picks and shovels were
certainly what the original McNicholasses from County Mayo
brought over with them when they modestly started up their
conduit-building in the Twenties, but there was also that little
matter of a strong will, bracketed with the tools in the script.
Though few profound thoughts are vouchsafed to us during
Dineen's interrogation of the human moles as they work and rest
and return briefly to the greenness of Ireland (the open road of the
title), tonight's film should help us see these often-dreaded men in a
new light
10.00 The Managers: At the End of the Day. Enjoyable drama series
starring Cherie Lunghi as a woman managing an English second
division football team (r)
11.00 Nowhere to Play. A fascinating film giving a rare glimpse into the
world of the affluent black middle-class in Soweto, focusing on a
group of friends who set up a golf club — the only snag being there
is no golf course and nowhere to play
12.00 Double Vision: Boring For Hardtop. Drama-documentary
about a television researcher (Ray Stubbs) who is sent to
Hardtop to write a script about boxing and ex-professional boxer
George Bowes (Ken Foreman). But the more he researches, the
more he realises that boxing flourishes in areas of poverty, so will
his script be too serious for the money men upstairs? Ends at
1.10am

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Radio 1

6.30-8.55am Open University (FM
only)
6.55 Newsline. News headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Offenbach
(Overture, Ver-Vert: Concert
No 2 in C minor: The Kiss;
Allegri Quartet)
7.30 News
7.35 News
7.40 Morning Concert (cont):
Hendel (Organ Concerto in F,
HWV 202), Dargomysch
(Solos), Liszt (Academy SO);
Bach (Prelude in E flat, BWV
552); Kyrie, Gott Vater in
E-flat, BWV 688; Christus,
Gott Sohn, BWV 670;
Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist, BWV
671; Gloria, Allan Gott in der
Horn set, BWV 678
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS

MONDAY MARCH 25 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Spurs to consider last-ditch cash call

TOTTENHAM Hotspur plc is considering a last-ditch rights issue after the collapse of talks with a consortium including Terry Venables, the football team manager.

Although Mr Venables indicated at the weekend that he believed his bid, backed by Larry Gillick, the Scottish bus tycoon, could still go ahead, it is unlikely without the support of the Tottenham board.

Amid doubts about the consortium's ability to fund the takeover, Irving Scholar, chairman of the football club and a director of its fully quoted parent company, was also opposed to plans to sell Paul Gascoigne, the player, to help repay debts of £18 million.

Mr Scholar holds 26 per cent of the shares and would be required to finance a large tranche of a rights issue. After the adverse publicity surrounding Tottenham's financial problems, the new shares are likely to be issued at a substantial discount to existing shares, which remain suspended at 91p.

New deal, page 32

Gulf firms 'need compensation'

International companies whose employees were forced back to Britain from the Gulf in January should receive special treatment from the Inland Revenue and Department of Social Security, says the accountant KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock.

The firms still have to pay the workers at the premium rates fixed in their contracts, even though they are no longer working in difficult conditions. In addition, the contracts usually required companies to cover any taxes.

Frost confirms

Richard Branson and David Frost have confirmed they are to go into partnership to bid for one of the largest ITV areas in the country in the forthcoming franchise round. The most likely favourite targets are those held by TVS Entertainment in the south, Thames or Anglia. The link is between Mr Frost's independent broadcasting group David Partridge, Mr Branson's Virgin airline and music conglomerate, and Charterhouse, the City merchant bank.

Lucas slows

Lucas Industries, the motor and aircraft components group, is expected today to report half-year profits below last year's £80.1 million. Despite the deep recession in the motor market, however, the fall is expected to be modest, reflecting a fundamental restructuring of the group's structure and markets since it was badly hit in the last recession.

No RPI reform

The Treasury has no plans to reform Britain's main measure of inflation, the retail price index (RPI), a Treasury official said. He was responding to a weekend report that the Treasury was planning to reform the measure as it exaggerated the impact of interest rate changes because of the weighting given to mortgage or home loan payments.

NatWest hope

Lord Alexander, NatWest chairman, has sent an optimistic message to shareholders that the bank would emerge from the recession "stronger than before". NatWest was forced to set aside £1.1 billion last year to cover bad and doubtful debts, most stemming from the UK. The provisions pegged profits to £504 million, compared with £404 million in 1989.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar
1.7893 (-0.0417)
W German mark
2.9442 (+0.0184)
Exchange index
92.6 (-0.4)

FT 30 Share

1944.0 (-39.5)

FT-SE 100

2440.5 (-53.7)

New York Dow Jones

2858.91 (-89.36)

Tokyo Nikkei Avg

26613.19 (-229.91)

Selling power to the Scots may be the toughest flotation



Shedding light on the issue: Sir Donald Miller, chairman, right, and Ian Preston, chief executive of ScottishPower, at the Forth Bridge, Scotland's best-known engineering landmark, which last year celebrated its 100th birthday; the floodlights, sponsored by ScottishPower, have entered the record books as the world's biggest floodlit structure.

By MARTIN WALLER

THE government will tomorrow unveil details of the latest and potentially most difficult round in the privatisation of the electricity industry, the sale of the two Scottish companies.

Dealings in ScottishPower and Scottish Hydro-Electric will start in June, with impact day for the prospectus set for the end of May. The companies are worth a total of about £1.5 billion, although ScottishPower is by far the larger of the two, with a turnover almost three times that of Hydro-Electric.

The formal marketing campaign starts tomorrow, although a "public awareness" campaign has been running since last year in parallel with the sale of the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales and the two

generators. The most difficult problem the government faces selling the Scottish companies stems from the embarrassingly large premiums the previous issues went to on their market debuts. These, observers say, have boosted the price of the Scottish concerns will be floated at to the point that theoretically the two should be sold at a discount to the average yield available on the stock market. The timing of the general election could be a second problem.

Although different advisers and a different government department, the Scottish Office, are involved, the flotation is likely to be similar to that of National Power and PowerGen, the generators.

The team selling the Scottish companies is bilateral, with matching English and Scottish merchant banks and stockbrokers. The banks are

Barclays de Zoete Wedd and British Linen Bank, the brokers BZW's de Zoete & Bevan and Bell Lawrie White.

Scottish investors will have the choice of buying into whichever of the two companies they take their electricity from or both. Other investors will be given a bundle of shares in the two, the proportion reflecting the companies' respective sizes — the shares in both groups will then trade independently on the first day of dealings.

It has still to be decided whether all or part of the equity will be sold. There will be a "back-end" tender to institutions of some of the stock just before dealings start to ensure at least some of the hypothetical loss to the taxpayer from a rising stock market after impact day is clawed back. There will also be a "book-building" exercise

through which institutions pre-bid for the shares. Setting that price could prove difficult. The two companies own both Scottish power stations and the means to distribute and have surplus generating capacity to supply the market south of the border. They should, therefore, be priced higher than the other two arms of the power industry.

One of the aims of the Scottish float is to drum up investor interest in Scotland. The government's privatisation programme has been far more popular in the Southeast of England than they have north of Hadrian's Wall.

The issue will have to be tightly priced to avoid it appearing to be the third giveaway in a row, too high a price could result in equal political embarrassment as most of the shares head south of the border.

Rush for £5bn rights forces Bank action

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE spate of rights issues being planned by British companies, expected to be worth more than £5 billion by the end of the year, has forced the Bank of England to operate an informal queueing system.

Institutions are bracing themselves for the wall of cash calls as companies rush to raise funds after the rise in share prices since January. The Bank has had to revive its informal queue to prevent planned rights issues clashing.

One corporate financier has revealed that his merchant bank is planning up to 12 rights for its clients and that a similar amount of work is under way at most leading City firms.

The issues will reduce the institutions' cash reserves, already depressed after a 15-year high last September, and are expected to stop the market rising further.

Gavin Simmonds, a director at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, said the window of opportunity to raise money should not be missed. He added: "If there is a compelling reason to raise the money, for good or bad reasons, companies should do it sooner rather than later."

Merchant bankers are advising clients to take the opportunity to strengthen their balance sheets or look for acquisitions at depressed prices.

While the Bank's formal queue was abolished in the 1989 Budget, an informal queue was established later that year. The dearth of issues since, however, means this is the queue's first test.

Stockbrokers and merchant banks in London inform a senior executive at the Bank's money markets division of the date of an issue worth more than £20 million. If this clashes with an earlier entry, the firm is gently persuaded to choose another day. One merchant banker said: "We do not

have to tell them, but it would be a poor corporate financier who didn't."

Mark Brown, an equity strategy analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, has forecast this year's rights issues will be worth £5 billion. Rights worth £1.5 billion were announced in the first quarter.

The determination of companies to press ahead with fund-raising programmes was obvious last week, when six companies announced rights issues. The largest was Redland, which asked shareholders for £280 million. The rush contrasts with the lack of new issues last year, when equity markets were depressed.

Mr Brown said institutions have been asked to invest £6 billion of their cash reserves since September. The total includes £2 billion for the two electricity privatisations and £4 billion for rights issues and corporate placements, including Sir James Goldsmith's sale of his 29.9 per cent stake in Ranks Hovis McDougall.

This, and the rise in the equity market, has cut liquidity levels from 6 per cent in September, their highest since 1976, to 4.5 per cent, about the average in the past decade. Cash levels will be cut further by installment payments for water and the electricity distributors this summer, worth £3.9 billion, and the sale of some of the government's British Telecom stake.

Cash levels have been protected by the continuing inflow of new investment, of up to £2 billion a month, but have still fallen by an estimated £3 billion to £25 billion. Mr Brown said: "We have gone from a high position to an average position very quickly. Liquidity is now a spent force."

Alastair Ross Goobey, the chief investment strategist at James Capel, says institutions are relieved they can invest their cash in the issues.

He is forecasting that there will be £10 billion in new shares offered to institutions this year, excluding privatisations.

Mr Ross Goobey added that the rush of issues would not cause a liquidity shortage, but that the rise in share prices would slow. He said: "The market is due for a pause."

Lawson's ghost, page 23



Calling the tune: BT chairman Iain Vallance with a new look for the Nineties

City dances as BT pays the piper

By OUR CITY STAFF

CITY institutions are queuing up this week for a slice of the next round of privatisation work, the sale of all or part of the government's 49 per cent stake in British Telecom.

The fees could top the £60 million BT spent on its new corporate logo, unveiled by Iain Vallance, chairman last week, especially if the government sells all its shares, worth almost £11 billion.

The flotation is likely to be in September or November election permitting, to avoid clashing with the second instalment on the regional electricity companies in October. A partial sale looks most likely.

Applications from merchant banks and brokers wanting to handle the issue are due by the Friday bank holiday. An innovation in the selection process is that integrated securities houses will be asked to make joint pitches for both the banking and broking sides of the float. The favourites for the merchant banking slot are likely to be Kleinwort Benson, which handled the sale of the electricity industry in England and Wales, N M Rothschild and Schroders.

The sale of the BT stake could provide the first test for another of Norman Lamont's Budget ideas, a high street share-buying system. Provided by a bank or retailer, it would cut out the traditional City broker.

Tootal wins £2m Ashley contract

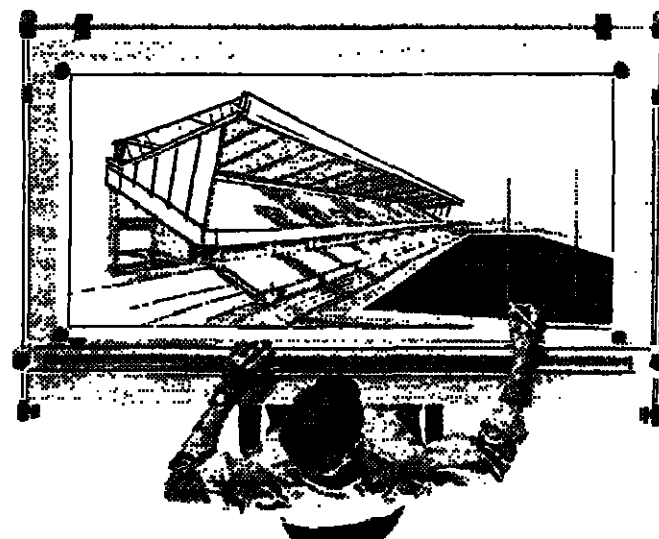
By MARTIN BARROW

TOOTAL, the target of a £194 million hostile bid by Coats Vytella, has won a £2 million contract to supply curtains to Laura Ashley, despite competition from a Coats offshoot.

The war of words between Tootal and Coats will continue today, the first closing date for the cash bid. Tootal claims it is convincing shareholders that it should remain independent, and will be heartened by reports that M&G, its largest institutional shareholder, has been buying more shares and holds almost 8 per cent.

Anthony Haggood, Tootal chief executive, has met institutional shareholders to convince them a union is no longer appropriate, particularly on current terms, even though Tootal's profits fell from £35.7 million to £23.21 million in 1990.

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British Steel: adding value

Lloyd's demands \$489m from Iraq

By JONATHAN PRYNN

AFTER the freezing of Iraq's financial assets, a total economic blockade and a 40-day aerial bombardment, not to mention the destruction of most of its armed forces, a high court writ for damages has been served against the war-torn country.

A claim for \$489.5 million against the Republic of Iraq and Iraqi Airways, its national carrier, has been launched in London by Kuwait Airlines and a group of Lloyd's underwriters.

The action demands damages equivalent to the value of ten Kuwaiti aircraft seized by Iraq plus interest, or their return.

The action began in January after the director general of Iraqi Airways rashly and publicly declared that ten of the 15 aircraft seized in Kuwait during the August invasion were to be used for commercial flights by the Iraqi airline. Rarely, if ever before, has such a blatant

example of international piracy been announced in a press release.

The Lloyd's underwriting group, led by Merrett's, has already paid out \$225 million on the Kuwaiti Airlines loss, by far the largest claim resulting from the Gulf war and a record for a war risk policy. The initial claim was for \$690 million, but Lloyd's agreed to pay only the limit for ground war coverage under the airline's war risk cover.

As yet there is no firm news of the 15 aircraft, which are thought to have been flown out of Kuwait shortly after the invasion. Latest information from the United Nations suggests that only one of the planes remains intact in Baghdad, perhaps now sporting the Iraqi Airways livery. Of the remaining 14, seven are believed to have been destroyed in the allied bombing raids on the city, six are thought to be now in Iran, while one other has been variously located in Oman and the Sudan.

The Iraqis would be taking a risk in

flying the aircraft over Iraq allied forces have already threatened to shoot down any fixed wing aircraft over the country. The planes have at least escaped the fate of the ill-fated British Airways Boeing 747 "scuttled" in Kuwait shortly before its liberation by the allied forces.

The missing aircraft are five Airbus A310s, three Airbus A300s, two Boeing 767s, one 727, two British Aerospace 125s and two Gulfstreams.

The future course of the action are unclear as neither have been represented in the three hearings to date. The claim, however, does have serious implications for the Lloyd's market, which is already reeling from losses caused by a succession of man-made and natural disasters.

Clyde & Co, the law firm representing the Lloyd's underwriters, is understandably coy about giving away details of the action and any communication it has had with Iraq. In the best traditions of tight-lipped court reporting, it will only say that "the case continues."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bush approves extra \$30bn for ailing thrifts

PRESIDENT George Bush has approved the allocation of \$30 billion to keep the bailout of the failing American savings and loans industry going until September. The Bush administration had said the money was urgently needed by the Resolution Trust Corp to continue closing or finding buyers for failed savings institutions ruined by fraud, mismanagement and bad loans.

The latest allocation adds to \$50 billion that, when approved in 1989, was said by the administration to be sufficient to clean up the industry. The bailout programme, however, has become more costly than officials originally thought, largely because of a deep slump in commercial property markets. William Seidman, head of RTC and the Federal Deposit Insurance, said he would have to ask Congress for more money before September 30.

Club Med to report loss

CLUB Méditerranée will report a net loss in the half year ending April 30, Serge Trigano, the managing director, said. This compares with a net profit of Fr110 million over the first six months of fiscal 1990. The group had net attributable profits of Fr395.5 million for the year ended October 31. The group had already announced a Fr150 million drop in European receipts.

Working away 'causes stress'

LIVING and working away from home and family is a big cause of stress among business executives, says a report out today. Personal problems often develop when an executive is away from home, reports the Confederation of British Industry's employee relocation council. About 4 million business trips were undertaken by British executives last year.

Barclays in Cater link

BARCLAYS Bank, Britain's largest bank, and Cater Allen, the discount house, have set up an international stock lending subsidiary. The two companies are investing £1 million each in the company, called Barclays Cater Allen. The company will be managed jointly but Cater will own an additional non-voting share for tax reasons.

Barclays decided to find a partner for the business after tax changes in January improved the potential cashflow from stock lending. The venture brings together Barclays' list of institutional global custody clients with the capital market contacts of Sheppard Moneybrokers, the Cater Allen subsidiary.

New man for Mountleigh

MOUNTLEIGH has hired a new board member from Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, to help in its search for a suitable acquisition. David Watkins, pictured right, becomes director of business development and will be based in London. Mr Watkins, who has worked at Goldman for 19 years, helped Mountleigh with its joint venture with Sogo, the Japanese retailing group.



Domino wins deal

DOMINO Printing Sciences, the Cambridge maker of industrial ink jet printing systems, has won a contract, worth more than £200,000, that will help local authorities to process electoral registration forms faster.

Domino, due to hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, is supplying a 16-head ink jet printing system to Norman & Burgess, a Ladbroke subsidiary in Liverpool. The system will code two lines of personalised information on to electoral forms at the rate of 160,000 per day. The forms are being produced for the 1992 local elections and will be used by most local councils.

Dan-Air warns of competition threat to UK air industry

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE survival of Britain's airline industry is threatened by the government's insistence on providing competition on European routes, the Civil Aviation Authority will be told next month.

Dan-Air, the Gatwick-based airline that came within 12 hours of liquidation at the end of last year, is trying to take over seven services from the collapsed Air Europe and then wants to expand into another five countries. The applications, which would turn Dan-Air into the dominant British airline at Gatwick if approved, are, however, being resisted by smaller rivals. They argue that they should also be allowed to compete for custom.

David James, the chairman of Davies & Newman, Dan-Air's holding company, said:

"The airline industry has got to stop shooting itself in the foot. If we are to prevent similar disasters to the collapse of Air Europe, we must stop insisting that, in the name of competition, there must always be two or three British carriers on any one route. All that means is that no one makes any money and the risk of a further collapse is increased."

Dan-Air will tell the CAA that it must, therefore, be given all the routes for which it is applying as a package to create a single strong British airline at Gatwick able to compete with foreign carriers.

Peter Ryan, the chairman of Dan-Air, said: "We shall be urging the authority to keep all the routes for which we are applying together. We do not

believe that smaller airlines should be allowed to cherry pick. One strong Gatwick-based carrier would be in the best interests of the United Kingdom."

Mr James said political pressure for a cut in air fares within Europe would be resisted.

"People have been flying far too cheaply for far too long," he said. "As a result, no airline now has the resources to make the big investment necessary or to earn the profits to cushion them against the kind of problems we have seen recently."

The airline industry expects that, once the effects of the Gulf war have been overcome and provided that fuel prices remain at the current level, European air fares will rise by an average of about 10 per cent within the next few months.

Dan-Air began services to Amsterdam from Gatwick last week. The route is being abandoned by British Airways from this month because it was losing money. Mr Ryan said Dan-Air could make a profit on the route because it had lower overheads.

If Dan-Air wins approval to operate services to 12 new destinations, it will need another six aircraft. After the collapse of Air Europe and cutbacks in world airline fleets, dozens of modern jets are available on the leasing market, creating a buyers' market.

Belgium props up Sabena with £166m

Brussels THE Belgian government is pumping money into Sabena, the financially troubled state-controlled airline, and will do more if the carrier finds a suitable partner to guarantee its survival.

British Airways is considered in Brussels to be the most likely candidate.

The Belgian government is injecting Bfr10 billion (£166 million) into Sabena and says it will add another Bfr5 billion when the airline finds a partner. Jean-Luc Dehaene, the communications minister, said the government would also cancel Bfr16 billion of debt owed by Sabena to the state.

The aid package amounts to Bfr35 billion. Mr Dehaene said the government had noted Sabena's restructuring plan, which involves trimming 2,204 of 11,600 jobs.

The airline recently announced it had started negotiations with BA, American Airlines and an Asian airline in its search for partners.

The Belgian government intends to keep a minority blocking interest in Sabena. Mr Dehaene said any future partner of Sabena was likely to bring a substantial dowry.

At the end of last year,

negotiations between Sabena, BA and KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines collapsed, reportedly to allow Sabena to restructure and recapitalize before any deal.

KLM and BA were to have bought a 20 per cent share each in Sabena to create a new airline aimed at transforming Brussels' Zaventem Airport into a hub linking 75 European cities. (AFP)

US downgrades airline forecasts

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

SHARES of American Airlines are expected to nosedive this week amid fears that the cut-price air fares war raging round the world is a clear signal for lower profits.

Prices dropped sharply on Wall Street on Friday as Edward Starkman, Paine Webber's airline analyst, downgraded expectations for British Airways, as well as for American Airlines and United Airlines, the two largest American carriers.

United lost \$3 to \$140.75 and American fell 25 cents to \$56. But BA firmed to \$30.125, despite concern raised by Mr Starkman that BA may not maintain its dividend in May.

Mr Starkman said: "Since BA went public, a major element of its story has been the dividend, so if that gets negatively impacted, people will sit up and take notice. As we move through 1991, you're going to see [Wall] Street estimates of 1992 airline profits coming down to more realistic levels and when that happens I think the stocks will get hit pretty hard."

Mr Starkman added: "It's conceivable that, without a quick pull-out from the recession, stock prices could fall 20 per cent. But even without that dire possibility, they will underperform."

Losses of America's top 12 airlines are expected to top \$1.5 billion when the figures are added up at the end of this month. This would bring the total losses for six months to almost \$3 billion.

Continental Airlines last week reported a \$2.25 billion loss for the final three months of last year. Raymond Neill, airline analyst with Dillon Read, expects airline losses for the whole of 1990 to total an unprecedented \$2.4 billion. He has not even begun estimating this year's figures.

Last week, on both sides of the Atlantic, BA announced a \$50 million campaign giving away 50,000 tickets to revive the flagging market. American Airlines and United are advertising their cut-price fares heavily in American newspapers and Virgin Atlantic has recently launched a London-New York one way fare for \$99.

Discounts are moving so fast that United is not even committing a fare price to paper in some of its advertisements.

Under a picture of a bowler hat displaying a Union Jack, London-bound passengers are invited to telephone the airline and ask for a quote.



'No-one makes money': David James, of Dan-Air

SMALLER COMPANIES

Cash still the king in times of rights

THE growing number of rights issues by companies seeking to reduce debts or bolster resources in anticipation of a recovery enhances the attraction of those firms that already have money in the bank, even when interest rates are falling.

Cash in the bank virtually eliminates the threat of a dilutive rights issue and leaves companies well placed to pick off competitors who have weaker balance sheets. In a recession, cash-rich firms can afford to sacrifice margins to protect or build up market share and hit the upturn at full speed.

Although small companies with cash deposits generally outperformed those with even moderate gearing ratios during the bear market, share prices did not altogether escape concern about trading levels and the flight of investment into larger quoted groups. So even now there is good value to be found.

This column has already highlighted the merits of Metal Bulletin, which boasts cash balances of £3 million. Others overdue for a re-rating are CML Microsystems, a powerful player in niche markets, with more than £7 million at its disposal; Johnson and Fifth Brown, with £10 million; and Rotok, with £9 million.

Another company that fits the bill is BNB Resources. BNB ended 1990 with £15 million in the bank, the legacy of the well-timed disposal of Charles Barker, the public relations consultancy, and a controlling interest in Ayer Barker, the commercial advertising agency, in 1989.

At first glance, the company's decision to refocus on management selection, recruitment and advertising does not look so well-timed, considering the depth of the recession that immediately followed. Yet the company has proved resilient in difficult conditions, helped in no small measure by its mountain of cash.

In 1990, profits were maintained at £4.51 million before tax on turnover, ex-Charles Barker, of £65.32 million, down from £102.55 million while earnings rose 25 per cent to 14.5p a share. The company netted almost £2 million in interest but, more important, maintained operating profits as a proportion of income at levels virtually unchanged on the previous year, despite the downturn.

BNB dipped into its reserves to buy Lockyer Bradshaw & Wilson, a leading recruitment advertising agency, for £1.5 million last December, and is on the look-out for other acquisitions. The challenge for David Norman, chairman and chief executive, will be to resist the temptation to rush out and spend the money just because interest rates are falling.

BNB shares have risen from 88p to 100p this month, of which 71p is in cash. Despite recent outperformance, they still represent good value.

MARTIN BARROW

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 22nd March 1991, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the Stocks listed below:

£250 million 10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1994
£250 million 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005
£100 million 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1994

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market price of the relevant Stock at 3.30 p.m. on 22nd March 1991 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 22nd March 1991 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects pari passu with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that Stock, and subject also to the provisions contained in the final prospectus of this notice, the current provisions for Capital Gains Tax are described below.

Application has been made to the Council of The International Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

Copies of the prospectuses for 10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1994 dated 2nd January 1987, 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 1994 dated 27th April 1984 (which contained the terms of issue of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005) and 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1994 dated 27th May 1988 may be obtained from the Registrar's Department, Bank of England (New Issues), PO Box 200, Gloucester, GL1 1UH.

The Stocks are repayable, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below (in the case of 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1994 provision is made in the prospectus for stockholders to be offered the right of early redemption under certain circumstances):

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1994	9th June 1994	9th June
9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005	18th April 2005	18th April
2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1994	16th May 1994	16th May
10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1994 and 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 are repayable at par.		16th November

Both the principal of and the interest on 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1994 are indexed to the General Index of Retail Prices. The index figure relevant to any month is that published seven months previously and relating to the month before the month of publication. The index figure relevant to the month of issue of 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1994 is that relating to October 1987 (102.9). This index figure will be used for the purposes of calculating payments of principal and interest due in respect of the further tranche of stock.

The relevant index figures for the half-yearly interest payments on 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1994 are as follows:

Interest payable	Published in	Relating to
May	October of the previous year	September
November	April of the same year	March

The further tranches of 10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1994 and 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 1994 will rank for a full six months' interest due on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant Stock. The further tranche of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 has been issued on an end-dividend basis and will not rank for the interest payment due on 18th April 1991.

Each of the Stocks referred to in this notice is specified under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 as a gilt-edged security (under current legislation exempt from tax on capital gains, irrespective of the period for which the Stock is held).

Government Statement

Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 29th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, these further tranches of stock are issued or sold or on behalf of the Government or the Bank, that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
22nd March 1991

Irish lead Europe with low inflation

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN DUBLIN

THE Republic of Ireland boasts the lowest rate of inflation in Europe after the announcement last week of a rise in the consumer price index of only 2.6 per cent for the year to mid-February.

The figures give further evidence to claims that Ireland has put behind it the economic slump of the Seventies and Eighties. The principle factor behind the low inflation is claimed to be a belated adjustment to the exchange-rate mechanism, which Ireland joined in 1979.

The benefits have only recently begun to come through. Tony Barry, chief executive of CRH, Ireland's second-largest industrial company, said: "The fact that the Irish currency has stabilised has had a significant effect on the translation of profits. Wage settlements have also finally come down. We have a three-year agreement on wages, but it took six years to learn the lesson of the ERM."

CRH is, in some respects, a corporate mirror image of Ireland's economy. In the early Eighties, the company was mainly a domestic operator. Today, CRH generates 70 per cent of its profits abroad, and last year profits increased by 9 per cent despite a recession in Britain and America, two of the company's biggest markets.

Ireland has also attracted a large number of foreign high-tech companies, lured by grants from the Industrial Development Authority of Ireland. These include a subsidiary of up to 40 per cent of foreign investment, one of the highest in Europe, and corporation tax of 10 per cent for manufacturing companies, guaranteed until 2010.

Ireland has, however, not shrugged off the core economic problem of unemployment, which runs at 17 per cent. In addition, the cost of servicing public debts amounts to about 75 per cent of tax revenues.

Convertible changes colours

WHEN is a premium put convertible not a premium put convertible? When it is a usable bond with warrants.

This latest variation on the convertible bond theme was unveiled last week when Tate & Lyle announced its £124 million cash offer for Bundaberg, an Australian sugar milling company. The complex piece of financial high technology was brought to Tate by Goldman Sachs, which also led the deal. Goldman's timing was perfect: Tate was busy working out the financing for the deal when the new product was presented.

At its simplest, the bond gives Tate £68 million of ten-year money at a maximum cost of 10.1 per cent. If the bonds are converted at maturity, the cost is only 7.8 per cent, well below the coupons offered by comparable corporate borrowers on recent convertible capital bonds. The bonds are issued at a deep discount, offering tax advantages to the issuer, and carry a warrant, which can be broken off and sold separately.

If Tate shares do not perform over the next ten years, making it more attractive to redeem for cash rather than convert into equity, the bonds must be repaid at par to yield the 10.1 per cent return. In that respect, the issue shows a resemblance to its notorious cousin, the premium put convertible. But there are important differences.

There is no five-year put option, giving Tate shares the full ten years to reach the conversion target. That means it is less likely to be caught out

by a temporary collapse in its share price.

Second, and crucially, Tate shares need only achieve 5 per cent average growth over the next ten years to trigger conversion. This compares with the 10 per cent often seen with the premium put convertibles of the Eighties. Tate decided on the 5 per cent rate because that is roughly what inflation

alone should do to its share price over the next decade.

Third, Tate can call the issue after five years if falls in interest rates make the 7.9 per cent yield look expensive.

The structure is innovative and attractive, avoiding the pitfalls of the premium put convertible but offering more flexibility, and better accounting and tax treatment than

convertible capital bonds. It may replace the convertible capital bond as the trendiest hybrid in town. But there are bound to be drawbacks if circumstances are not kind to the issuer. As the premium put convertible showed, in the capital markets the past is an unreliable guide to the future.

JONATHAN PRYNN

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NatWest Business Accounts INTEREST RATES

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Solicitors Reserve Account

Customers not affected by CMT		Customers affected by CMT	
Gross interest per annum	Balance	Net interest per annum	Gross equivalent per annum to a basic rate taxpayer
11.00%	Instant Access - No minimum deposit/withdrawal	8.250%	11.00%
11.00%	£250,000 and above	8.250%	11.00%
10.625%	£100,000 - £249,999	7.875%	10.50%
10.250%	£25,000 - £99,999	7.625%	10.17%
7.375%	£2,000 - £24,999	5.500%	7.33%
	£500 - £1,999		

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Lawson's ghost at Budget feast

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Mrs Thatcher's poll tax haunted the Budget like Banquo's ghost. But it was another, even more ominous, apparition that actually seemed to be driving the plot of the government's economic drama. Like the ghost of Hamlet's father, the spirit of Nigel Lawson appeared in all his most daring, or possibly foolhardy, acts.

In fact, the Budget could be described as Mr Lawson's philosophical apotheosis, or maybe his political revenge. Consider the key Budget measures: the huge shift of tax burden onto consumption; the total rejection of any role for discretionary macroeconomic policy to steer the economy out of recession; the quest for "fiscal neutrality", even at the expense of demand for cars and housing, the two cyclical industries on which the hope for spontaneous recovery from recession would above all depend. All these were vintage Lawsons. But the most revealing feature of the Budget was its presentation of the government's economic goals.

The first sentence of the Budget Red Book said: "The

objectives of the government's economic policy are to defeat inflation and to promote output growth and the creation of jobs." From then on, the words growth and jobs were never mentioned again except in statistical tables and instead a subtly different sentence was repeated with monotonous regularity: "The central objective of the government's macroeconomic policy continues to be the defeat of inflation."

The difference between these two statements may seem pedantic but it contains the essence of the Lawson philosophy and suggests a serious danger in the year ahead. Mr Lawson believes that inflation was a purely monetary problem, readily amenable to monetary control. Unemployment and inadequate growth, on the other hand, were due entirely to "structural rigidities" such as union monopolies and restrictive practices. From this, it followed that macroeconomic policy should be

directed only against inflation, while growth could be promoted only by plugging away at deregulation, training, union reform and so on.

The consequences of this theoretical dichotomy became evident in Mr Lawson's 1988 Budget. Although the economy was growing rapidly, he cut taxes drastically and eased monetary policy, believing that the fast growth rates achieved from 1987 onwards had been due to structural improvements in the economy and not to an old-fashioned macroeconomic boom. As for inflation, Mr Lawson was equally convinced that this could not become a problem because he had discovered a "monetary anchor" for Britain by pegging

the pound informally to the non-inflationary mark.

In the event, both his convictions turned out to be false. Inflation accelerated despite the semi-fixed exchange rate. The tax cuts, which were supposed to affect only the supply side of the economy, instead stimulated demand and produced unsustainable trade deficits and credit growth. Mr Lawson's management of the economy in the late Eighties, therefore, provided the best refutation of his own belief.

Yet in last week's Budget, Mr Lawson not only paid fulsome tribute to the Member for Blaby, but also seemed intent on repeating the blunders made in the Budget three years ago — intensifying the economic cycle,

but this time on the downswing instead of the way up. Mr Lawson has maintained extremely high real interest rates and has actually tightened fiscal policy slightly, apparently believing that this will have no negative effect on growth, consumption or unemployment. He is convinced, like Mr Lawson three years ago, that inflation will fall to the German level because of the link with the mark and is willing to let the economy suffer from high interest rates until this takes place.

But what if inflation does not fall as is expected? Italy has been a member of the exchange-rate mechanism for 12 years and has been in the narrow band since January 1990. Yet its inflation rate last year was 6.2 per cent and last week the government officially forecast that it would remain at 5.8 per cent this year. Judging by Friday's retail price figures, Britain may also be in for a very slow convergence towards German inflation levels. In

Britain, as in Italy, inflation is not just a cyclical monetary aberration. It is a fundamental assumption of business and economic life, which will take years of structural changes to eradicate.

But according to the Lawson-Lamont philosophy, there would be only one way of responding to continuing inflation in Britain — macroeconomic policy, above all interest rates, would have to remain extremely tight. If this caused additional unemployment and prolonged recession, then trade unions and other structural rigidities, not government policies, would be to blame.

This is both dangerous and absurd. To claim that inflation is monetary while unemployment is structural is a false dichotomy. Inflation and unemployment are structural and macroeconomic problems. Monetary and fiscal policy must try to minimise both in the short term, while structural changes do their work over many years. Intelligent choices must constantly be made about whether inflation or recession is the more urgent priority. That is what politics, as opposed to listening to spirits, is all about.

Lucas steers to aerospace after decade of learning



Lessons from past: Tony Gill, of Lucas Industries

TEN years ago this month, Lucas Industries declared the first half-year loss in its 100-year history. In 1981, national output was still falling, unemployment was rising towards 3 million, and manufacturing was in deep trouble.

The contrast with today is striking. We are in a severe recession, although arguably one that has bottomed out. Unemployment has risen above 2 million, and another million jobs could go. Yet despite their discomfort, British manufacturers continue to display a remarkable resilience.

Many companies have failed, but the majority of those that have gone to the wall were created during the boom years of the Eighties. Lessons about cash conservation were learned by the survivors of the last recession that have stood them in good stead as this one has developed. But there is more to it than that.

From its roots as a cycle lamp manufacturer at Birmingham, Lucas had grown by 1981 to be one of Britain's largest motor component makers. Lucas was good at what it did, by the standards of British industry at the time, but it typified industry's inadequate response to the accelerating internationalisation of markets and competition.

Most Lucas plants were dedicated to producing large volumes of relatively low technology products for the British automotive industry. When Britain's vehicle output slumped, Lucas responded by increasing exports. Its factories lost efficiency, however, as they struggled to produce shorter production runs and a larger product range. Productivity, quality and delivery reliability worsened.

The problems were compounded by an excessively rigid management structure and too many older, arrogant executives with a feeling, in the words of Tony Gill, the chairman, that "the world owed us a living". That sentiment was shared on the shop

floor, and expressed by intermittent disruption. Mr Gill became joint managing director in 1979, just as the recession took root. Job cuts began almost immediately, but it was the "shattering experience" of a £21.4 million loss in 1981 that galvanised management.

Within months, they had reviewed every business and set about closing or selling those they did not want to be in. The survivors were given more management freedom, and told to identify their best competitor and develop a plan to catch it up. The next year, Lucas made a £20 million profit. The rolling review, in a refined form, became an enduring feature of Lucas' management process. Mr Gill

and his colleagues concluded that automotive parts manufacture could be a good business to be in, but profits and stability were best assured by making sophisticated products where the high cost of entering the business restricted the number of competitors.

Lucas focused on businesses that best met its new criteria: braking systems and fuel systems, especially for diesel engines. The group also built a closer relationship with customers and developed engineering systems for specific vehicles in exchange for long-term contracts. Once Lucas had started making sensible profits again, it was able to take advantage of the long bull run in the

stock market to raise cash for acquisitions. Existing overseas activities were built up to reduce its vulnerability to a British downturn. The company stepped up efforts to establish a comparable role manufacturing aerospace components and set out to develop a third leg for the group in industrial technology, a direction it has now abandoned.

Lucas started the Eighties with half of all its sales in Britain, and 72 per cent in the automotive sector. By last year, Britain accounted for only a third of turnover, but it had an international spread of customers. Automotive had shrunk to 58 per cent, while aerospace grew from 19 to 29 per cent of sales.

Yet such was the scale of disposals and contraction in the early years that last year, turnover, at £2.33 billion, was only 14 per cent higher in real terms. During the same period, Lucas's British workforce halved to 32,000.

Lucas' modernisation has been a formidable achievement. As in so much of British industry, however, it is the British workforce that now forms the focus of Mr Gill's concern for the group's future. At one time, group training costs reached 3 per cent of sales, exceeding even German norms. Mr Gill said: "Crude-ly, the productivity in the UK is still below the average productivity in the rest of continental Europe, the United States and Japan. We are competitive only because we pay less."

The most critical determinant of British industry's future lies, he believes, not with the companies, but with the state education system. Mr Gill added that, with the exception of the top few per cent (who are outstanding) "people who come to work for us in the UK are still less well educated in the right things. Industry just should not tolerate that."

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

Inflation performance holds key

GILT-EDGED

The Budget leaves the gilt investor with two big questions. First, will the Treasury achieve its ambitious inflation target? Second, will the market be able to fund the burgeoning PSBR?

These questions are basically one and the same, leaving the market exceptionally geared to inflation performance.

The Chancellor's announcement of an £8 billion PSBR next year did not worry the market. But the £12 billion estimate for 1992-3 was a surprise. If anything, these projections are likely to be over-shot, leaving the market to face about 1½ billion a month of new issues in 1992-3, without the help of falling base rates. Who is going to buy all these issues and at what price?

The emphasis on short-dated issues should encourage banks and building societies back into the market, but this will do nothing to help the funding equation, which excludes their purchases. Overseas investors have been large net sellers of gilts over the past two years, despite their appetite for eurosterling issues, and might buy gilts instead. But the problem here is that the government will find itself in competition with corporate treasurers who want to fund their borrowings.

Nevertheless, thinking

about the integrated nature of the sterling bond markets suggests a more interesting outcome. If present policies are successful and inflation converges, the ERM bands will begin to look feasible, bringing a sustained fall in interest rates, the prize that the Chancellor clearly has his eyes on.

We would see a compression of yield spreads as the gilt market fused with the continental bond markets. But

present ERM bands will look increasingly vulnerable, interest rates will stay at a premium and the gilt market will remain an outlier. Gilts will suffer a double blow, as heavy issues fall on a much narrower investor base, widening differentials against the continental markets.

Unfortunately, at the same time as inflation gearing has increased, inflation has become more uncertain. In the long term, the ERM will help

'If inflation proves stubborn . . . gilts will suffer a double blow'

the point is that this would limit the impact of new issues on gilt yields: market integration means that supply is distributed across a much larger area, so that gilt supply, even for the UK, has no more impact on yields than Bund or OAT issues.

On this unified market scenario, the gilt investor, arguably, should be more worried about developments in Germany than about gilt issuance. But, on the other hand, if inflation proves stubborn, the

to stabilise inflation. But we start with a rate of labour cost inflation that is nearly four times the average rate of that in other industrial countries and no one really knows how rapid the downward adjustment will be.

The Treasury forecast suggests we will be in line with this average by the first half of next year, but that looks very optimistic. This autumn's wage round will begin with unemployment pushing 2.5 million and headline inflation

at 3 or 4 per cent, for the first time since 1987. It is just possible that we could see settlements around the 5 per cent median we saw then, but this would imply a sharp fall from the present 10 per cent median.

The other uncertainties relate to profit margins. These are under severe downward pressure across the board, but the latest PPI and RPI figures show that companies are putting up stout resistance.

There remains a chance that the Budget's VAT increase will be absorbed by retailers, but if it raises prices in the high street, this could confuse people and make them think inflation remains high.

So the gilt investor should be cautious and keep a keen eye on PPI inflation and wage settlements. The short end has been buoyed by hopes of early base rate cuts and is certainly liable to disappointment. But yields in the ten-year area offer 135 basis points over French OATs, insurance against all but the gloomiest forecasts of inflation. This area will perform best on ERM success and we again recommend the switch into this area, suggested here in November.

PETER SPENCER
Lehman Brothers

MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO SURPRISES IN YOUR BUDGET.

The Chancellor certainly caught the City on the hop last week with his Budget pronouncements — not least of which concerned the taxation of mobile telephones as a benefit in kind.

Quieter restaurants and safer roads aside, Mr Lamont's remarks highlight the need for much closer control of cellular telephone costs.

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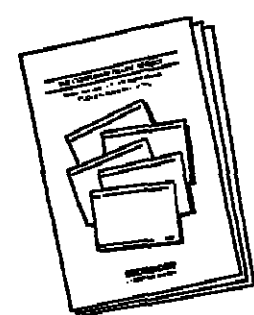


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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Boutique boost for Holmes

THE new independent sales and research securities boutique that John Holmes, former head of Morgan Grenfell Securities, and until December, head of equity sales at Morgan Stanley, hopes to launch in September will have at least £3 million in funding behind it before it opens for business. Peter Quinnen, chief executive of James Capel until he walked out a year ago, will be the boutique's chairman. "We don't need that much funding from a regulatory point of view, nor from a business point of view, but it would be nice to be in a position to be able to build it up into a proper business," says Holmes. Holmes and Quinnen plan to cover about ten market sectors initially, with one analyst per sector, and a team of perhaps eight sales people working along side them. Most of that £3 million will come from employees. "We haven't started actively recruiting yet," says Holmes, "but we know who we want and most of the people we want are more than willing to join us and to invest in some equity." Although he would also like to have a few outside shareholders — "I'm very keen on that because it gives you a certain discipline" — most of them will be private individuals, hand-picked from within the Square Mile. "Whether or not it is legally a partnership has not been decided but it will have a partnership ethos and a lot of

people have already expressed considerable interest," says Holmes.

Pizza the action

EVEN before last week's base rate cut, irrepressible American Bob Payton, of Chicago Pizza Pie Factory fame, was prepared, as ever, to stick his neck on the chopping block, and say that the recession in Britain had bottomed out. It touched the bottom of its cycle, he claims, precisely two weeks ago. Payton, a committed Anglophile, who lives largely the life of a country squire, at Stapleford Park, his country house hotel in Leicestershire, decided that the tide had turned when he received 21 corporate bookings for his hotel within two days. "They were for anything from ten rooms to a full house for a weekend," says Payton. "Up until then, March had been disastrous, but I think

companies are now saying: 'We are at the bottom and we have got to get off the bottom.' A lot of hoteliers and restaurants are still very depressed, but we have noticed an upturn in our restaurant business also." Payton, with his characteristically colourful turn of phrase, described the ending of the Gulf war as "the enemy which unclogged the system." His restaurant in Tel Aviv went from 1,400 covers a week to 3,000, as soon as hostilities came to a halt.

THE planets could have more of an influence on our lives than we like to think. Jules Lewicki, a self-styled market forecaster, predicted, via this column, that the FT-SE 100 index would end its triumphant run within five days of March 16 — the optimum point in the so-called Jupiter/Saturn cycle. Whether it was anything to do with the stars or not, the index did, indeed, peak on March 15, before going into a downward slide. It has fallen 53 points since then. Lewicki now predicts an even sharper fall "sometime in May", although he will not reveal the exact date that he has in mind. Certainly not one for infants and grannies . . .

Punt, pant or pint

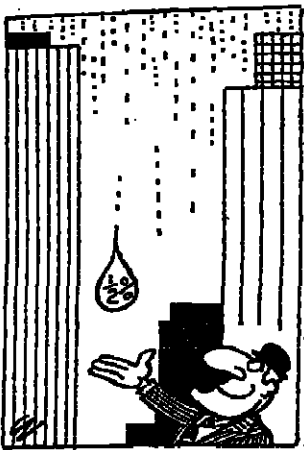
EVERY now and then a joke emerges like a shaft of light in the tedium of the Blue Arrow trial. On Friday, Anthony Hooper, QC for David Reed, former County NatWest director, asked UBS Phillips & Drew's head of market-mak-

ing why the book where Blue Arrow shares were kept was called the punt book. Why not the pant book he asked, whereupon the judge, Mr Justice McKinnon, clipped in: "Why not call it the pint book?" "Because we already have one called that," the witness, John Dalby — more commonly known as Steven in the Square Mile — replied.

Umbrella men

A FORMER Lloyd's broker has teamed up with a former corporate financier to launch one of the more exotic companies the City has seen. The Indian Ocean Trading Company hopes to capture the imagination of the British public by importing umbrellas — not just ordinary ones, but giant garden parasols made in Madagascar. "The four-poled majunga is probably the largest umbrella in the world," says James Hobbs, the co-founder, whose family name is well-known in the Lloyd's market. He has formed the company with Graeme Love, a barrister, who worked in corporate finance at Laurence Prust before the firm's demise last year. The intrepid pair visited Madagascar last summer and hope to create a new trend — despite price tags ranging from £324 to £1,500 for the 300 sq ft majunga. Hobbs, aged 27, plans to donate a free sample to the new Corney & Barrow wine-bar at Lloyd's, clearly hoping that that new trend will start very close to home.

CAROL LEONARD



"The quality of mercy is not strained..."

UNLISTED SECURITIES

IN SPITE of poor retailing conditions, Kingfisher, the Comet to Woolworths group chaired by Geoffrey Mulcahy, should show a relatively resilient performance when it reports on Wednesday.

The company had a respectable first half, although conditions became tougher in the second. The group will not have escaped the broader slowdown in retail profits, but is, however, expected to be a big beneficiary of any upturn in consumer spending.

Nick Bubb, at Morgan Stanley, expects higher contributions from B&Q, Superdrug and Woolworths to offset lower profits from Comet and Chartwell Land, the group's property subsidiary.

Mr Bubb forecasts "clean" group pre-tax profits of £210 million for the full year, against £207 million last time. Market estimates range from £200 million to £215 million. Mr Bubb expects a headline figure, including property profits and exceptionals, of about £240 million (£295 million).

First-half strength: Geoffrey Mulcahy, of Kingfisher

pected to announce final pre-tax profits of £103 million, against £90.5 million last time, according to County NatWest WoodMac.

Market forecasts range from £101.5 million to £106 million. The figures will be boosted by a contribution from Fitch Lovell.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects ECC Group, the mineral extraction group headed by Andrew Teare, the chief executive, to report pre-tax profits of £106 million (£150.6 million) for the 15-month period to December.

Profits fell 43 per cent to £86.4 million in the 12 months to September, including £32 million for exceptional redundancy costs.

Falling automotive demand will affect profits at Lucas Industries, although the aerospace division should perform well. Interim pre-tax profits are expected to slip to £77.5 million (£80.1 million), according to Sandy Morris at County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £62 million to £77.5 million.

Interim: Estates & Agency Holdings, Lloyd Thompson Group, Li-

cas industries, RMT Group, Ssatchi & Ssatchi.

Finals: Bedford (William), Booker, Brodero Properties, Brent Chemicals International, Compuser Chemicals Group, ECG Group, Ewlin Group, Era Group, Handley-Walker Group, Invergordon Distillers, Mayborn Group, P-E International, Rotork, Sharpe & Fisher, Sheffield Insulations, Spring Ram Corporation, UniChem.

Economic statistics: Capital expenditure and stockbuilding (fourth quarter - revised), balance of payments, current account and overseas trade figures (February).

Lord Sterling of Plaistow, the chairman of P&O, the shipping, construction and property group, has had to navigate some murky waters as conditions deteriorated during the second half. Final pre-tax profits are expected to fall to £276 million (£376.7 million), according to Nomura Research Institute, although the dividend is forecast at 31.9p (29.5p). Market estimates range from £265 million to £300 million.

Prudential Corporation, Britain's largest life assurance and financial services group, is expected to report final pre-

tax profits of £275 million (£385 million), according to County. Forecasts range from £213 million to £285 million. General insurance is expected to suffer as a result of £90 million of storm losses.

Geographical and product diversification will offset the downturn in British materials at Steetley, the building materials group headed by David Donne, the chairman, and Richard Miles, the managing director.

Harrisons & Crosfield, the chemicals and plantations group, should show final pre-tax profits of £105 million (£130.7 million), according to Warburg Securities. Market forecasts range from £100 million to £110 million.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects United Newspapers, which publishes the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star*, to see final pre-tax profits decline to £102 million (£111.2 million) in conditions affected by weakening advertising markets.

Forecasts range from £93 million to £102 million.

Interims: Advest Group, Bridport-Gundry, Frogmore Estates, Lincat Group, MY Holdings, Pressac Holdings, Town Centre Securities.

Finals: Abtrust New Thai Investment Trust, Amec, APV, Bemmors Corporation, Bridon, Buzd, Burmah Castrol, Cakrd Group, Dauphin, Gail Petroleum, Harrison & Crossfield, Hogg Group, Jeyes Group, Kingfisher, Laing (John), Lionheart, Macfarlane Group (Clanman), Page (Michael) Group, Portmellon Potteries, Pylon, Relyon Group, Rockware, Senior Engineering, Serif Cowells, Slough Estates, Spirax-Sarco Engineering, United

Economic statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (February), engineering sales and orders (January), new vehicle registrations (February).

Laporte, the specialist chemicals group, is expected to report final pre-tax profits of £112 million (£100.3 million), says BZW. Forecasts range from £112 million to £120 million.

Guardian Royal Exchange is set to reveal pre-tax losses of £130 million, against profits of £148 million.

Interim: I&S Optimum Income Trust (third quarter), Murray Ventures, Pegasus Group.

Final: Bliston & Battersea Enamels, Breedon, Clarke, Nickolls & Coombs, Clarkson (Horace), Garton Engineering, Gibbs and Dandy, Guardian Royal Exchange, Inverness


Economic statistics: Insurance and pensions (fourth quarter), energy

PHILIP PANGALOS

PHILIP PANGALOS[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited ("The Stock Exchange"). It does not constitute or contain, and is not calculated to invite, an offer or invitation to subscribe for or purchase any securities in the Company.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for all of the Ordinary Shares of HK\$10 each to be admitted to the Official List. It is anticipated that dealings will commence on 8 April 1991.


HSBC Holdings plc
(incorporated in England under no. 617987)

Introduction to The Stock Exchange by
J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited
pursuant to recommended proposals for
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
to become owned by a new holding company
HSBC Holdings plc

Financial advisers

Wardley Corporate Finance Limited	J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited	James D. Wolfensohn Incorporated
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**Share capital
for which application
for listing has been made**

Authorised (number of shares)		In issue (number of shares)
2,000,000,000	Ordinary Shares of HK\$10 per share	1,625,396,824

Listing Particulars relating to the Company, including the full text of the reports and accounts of the Company and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited for the financial year ended 31 December 1990, are included in the Companies Fiche Service available from The Stock Exchange and may be obtained during normal business hours up to and including 8 April 1991 from:


J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited 120 Cheapside London EC2V 6DS	HSBC Holdings plc 99 Bishopsgate London EC2P 2LA	Cazenove & Co 12 Tokenhouse Yard London EC2R 7AN
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and during normal business hours on 26 and 27 March 1991 from:

The Company Announcements Office
The Stock Exchange
46/50 Finsbury Square
London EC2N 1HP

It is anticipated that copies of the reports and accounts of the Company and of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited for the financial year ended 31 December 1990 will be posted to shareholders on or about 3 April 1991.

25 March 1991



NatWest

INTEREST RATES

NatWest announces the following interest rates,
effective from 25th March 1991:


Savings											
<small>Open 1st Interest @ per annum</small>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">3.125%</td> <td>7 Day Notice Deposit Account</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5.00%</td> <td>Bonus Saver Account†</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8.50%</td> <td>Investment Account†</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8.625%</td> <td>3 Months' Notice</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6 Months' Notice</td> </tr> </table>	3.125%	7 Day Notice Deposit Account	5.00%	Bonus Saver Account†	8.50%	Investment Account†	8.625%	3 Months' Notice		6 Months' Notice
3.125%	7 Day Notice Deposit Account										
5.00%	Bonus Saver Account†										
8.50%	Investment Account†										
8.625%	3 Months' Notice										
	6 Months' Notice										

* Interest paid prior to 6 April 1991 is subject to CDT regulations.
 † Flows to April, where appropriate. Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by residents non-taxpayers) subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.
 ‡ Floating account holders only.

National Westminster Bank PLC
 41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

Lloyds Bank Base Rate.

Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced
its Base Rate from 13 per cent
to 12.5 per cent p.a. with effect
from the close of business on
Friday 22 March 1991.



Lloyds Bank

THE THOROUGHREDBRED BANK.

[illegible]

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close	Open	High	Low	Change	%
1	BA Breweries	Breweries	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	0.00	0.0
2	Bank of Scotland	Banking	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
3	British Telecom	Telecom	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
4	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
5	British Gas	Utilities	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
6	British Leyland	Automotive	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
7	British Overseas Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
8	British Petroleum	Oil	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
9	British Rail	Transport	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
10	British Steel	Steel	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
11	British Sugar	Sugar	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
12	British Waterways	Waterways	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
13	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
14	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
15	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
16	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
17	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
18	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
19	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
20	British Airways	Airline	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were no valid claims for the weekly Portfolio Platinum prize of £4,000. The money will be added to next Saturday's game.

BRITISH FUNDS

Share	Open	High	Low	Close
1000	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Share	Open	High	Low	Close
1000	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Share	Open	High	Low	Close
1000	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Share	Open	High	Low	Close
1000	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

UNDATED

Share	Open	High	Low	Close
1000	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

INDEX-LINKED

Share	Open	High	Low	Close
1000	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Share	Open	High	Low	Close
1000	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalisation and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 11. Dealings end March 28. Contango day April 2. Settlement day April 8.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

DRAPERY, STORES

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

ELECTRICALS

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

FOODS

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

S-Z

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

LEISURE

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

MINING

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
2000	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

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A giant step in a man's world

A London school is challenging male domination of the building industry.
Barbara Lamb
inspects the project

Measuring tapes, clipboards and pencils in hand, the third-form girls were measuring their school playground in detail and doing their best to record a bird's eye view on paper.

"It is much more fun than being in class," said Joanna Joannon, aged 14. Choi Lam, another student, complained: "I cannot measure to save my life." Their class at Islington Green, a co-educational comprehensive school in north London, was taking part in a nine-week course involving the design and construction of a building from scratch.

In the playground exercise, the girls were architects. As the course continues, they will also assume the roles of civil and structural engineers, quantity surveyors and mechanical and electrical service engineers, working through stages, from the rough design to building a scale model.

The experiment came about when Christine Peters, the headmistress, was invited by Gail Waldman, an architect, to an introductory meeting of Women As Role Models (Warm) in the construction profession.

The meeting was attended also by an informal group of women architects, civil and structural engineers, quantity surveyors, an educational psychologist, and women in education and equal opportunities.

Warm wants to break down gender barriers to show how the building professions, hitherto considered a male domain, could be a career option for girls. The less academic might consider bricklaying, plastering, plumbing or painting and decorating.

Ms Peters fully approved of the idea and discussed it with Andrea Lowe, the school's craft design technology teacher. Here was the opportunity to offer her third-year girls something completely different.

Ms Lowe has since met regularly with architects Ms Waldman and Janet Payne, quantity surveyor Rosemary Tinker and civil engineer Deborah Lennox. Together,



First steps to a profession: civil engineer Deborah Lennox (in black, centre) gives Islington Green students expert advice on their project

they worked out a timetable the girls would follow week by week, taking into account homework and equipment required at each stage.

The course started in late February with a rough outline of how the architect proceeds from a "greenfield site" to the completion of the building. The course also emphasised that several famous buildings were designed by women: the Stratford Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, by Elizabeth Scott, and London's Royal Festival Hall, by Jane Drew (with Maxwell Fry).

From the start, the classroom was decorated with posters showing women working in construction. After the first lesson, the girls were divided into three groups. Each was given a project, to produce a model during the nine weeks.

The projects will be based on the needs of fellow pupils who filled in a questionnaire. The "young architects" will be expected to come up with ideas, such as where the school's football players, girls

included, can grab a quick snack between games. Those participating in a lunchtime hobby or using the library do not like wasting time queuing in the dinner hall. What sort of facility could the girls provide for them? The playground exercise was their fifth lesson, and Ms Waldman asked them to use their imagination in designing a covered walkway.

She told them: "You are emulating an architect when she first goes on site. Watch while I walk around the perimeter of the area you have to draw. Just sketch it freehand as if you are looking at it from above. How does the covered walkway look and what about the struts that hold it up? Where does the walkway start and where does it finish on your design page?"

The project is for girls only because Ms Peters thinks the boys might dominate or take over. She believes strongly that girls should be offered choices from as early an age as possible. "The role model

concept is one of the most direct ways of showing girls that here is a career they can do, that women can be successful in a broad range of jobs," she says. "Here are women actually working in these professions saying, 'We are architects, we are civil engineers and we have achieved our goal, never allowing anything to hold us back - why aren't there more women like us?'"

According to Ms Waldman, who is a partner in an all-women architectural practice in Holloway, north London, a woman on a building site is still a rarity. In architecture, a woman, once established in a practice, rarely meets sexism from fellow practitioners, although only 8 per cent of all registered architects in Britain are women, and their salaries are often 75 per cent lower than men.

She says: "Girls are still put off by the unfairness of work availability in the building trade, compared with medicine and law, where there is a 50-50 intake." The experiment ties in with Ms

Peters's way of thinking. She has often invited women bricklayers or male nurses to speak to pupils. She will assess the new project to see whether it can be used as a pilot in other schools. She adds: "I hope we can deliver a teaching module to be marketed in schools and to include all aspects of national curriculum technology."

Sharon Cullen, who wants to be an architect, enthuses: "It is exciting work and it is different. I should love to design houses. I think we are lucky. There cannot be many schools doing this."

All the girls approve of the women experts who help with lessons. "If we had only the teacher, it would not really work," Joanna Joannon says. "We get more individual attention this way. And these women know so much about architecture."

The project is taking place at a time when students are considering GCSE options. Ms Peters says: "We want to challenge the idea that young people in the building industry have to be men."

True-blue heartache

KENNETH Clarke's dream of self-governing secondary schools throughout England is causing heartache in Harold Macmillan's old constituency, true-blue Bromley. The south-east London authority is facing the loss of six of its 17 secondary schools, and others may follow.

The first to go is Bullers Wood school for girls in Chislehurst, which assumes grant maintained status at the start of the summer term. Ballots in favour of opting out have been held at two boys' schools and three other schools are about to vote, almost certainly in favour.

Education officials suspect it is their success in attracting and training competent governors that has led the schools to think they can manage their own affairs without council help.

There is already a severe strain on secondary school places in Bromley and the rush to opt out may force the council to open another secondary school. Tory councillors on Bromley's education committee are expected next month to express concern about the unfair treatment of the schools that stay with the authority and the financial losses to the council with its resultant cutbacks in services.

Six to five on?

NEGOTIATIONS with teachers are bedevilled by the fact that they are represented by six unions. But there may be one union fewer within two years if merger proposals between the 39,000 members of the Professional Association of Teachers (PAT) and the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association (AMMA), which represents 135,000 teachers, are approved.

Talks began last November, and Peter Dawson, who retires as PAT's general secretary in July next year, says: "There are some major issues to be settled and I would not like to say what relationship is likely to emerge."

It could be a simple co-operation, offering services to members, or it could be a "marriage". Something has to be done to resolve the nonsense of six teacher unions airing their differences.

There seems less enthusiasm among the AMMA executive, who are expected to discuss at their annual assembly in Eastbourne next week whether to

continue with the merger talks. A merger would give AMMA more influence, but some members of the executive are concerned about what they view as PAT's no-strike pledge and its past record of seeming to become too closely identified with Conservative party policy.

New honour

LORD Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, becomes Chancellor of Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt university on November 30, St Andrew's Day. Lord Mackay, aged 63, the son of a railwayman, was educated in Edinburgh and after gaining an honours degree in mathematics at Edinburgh university joined St Andrews as a lecturer. The new rector at Edinburgh is Donnie Monroe, a guitarist and lead singer of Runrig, a Scottish pop group.

Not so jolly

THE strains of the "Eton boating song" may soon be heard on an artificial lake in a gravel pit, rather than in the more traditional surroundings of the Thames. But not if local residents have anything to do with it.



It. Eton College wants to extract about 3.5 million tons of gravel beneath some of its farmland near the Thames to finance the making of a lake big enough for international rowing events. The surrounding land would become a conservation area.

The scheme would cost more than £10 million. The lake, which would cover 2,400 sq yds at Dorney Reach, near Eton, would provide a safe environment for college rowers.

Eric Anderson, the headmaster, says: "The Thames is full of other traffic and with 600 small boats learning to row, we think it is only a matter of time before there is a nasty accident."

Some residents, however, claim that an accident would more likely result from changes to the flood channel outside the village of Datchet.

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Teacher of Mathematics Standard Scale + Dartford CTC Allowance

A qualified teacher is sought to join this key department and contribute to developing new teaching strategies and develop new courses. Opportunities for A level.

Teacher of Science Standard Scale + Dartford CTC Allowance

A qualified science teacher is sought to join this expanding department. National Curriculum Science is followed by Years 7-9 (4 hours per week) with GCSE students choosing between Nuffield Co-Ordinated Science or a Dual Award Modular course. All sciences are offered at A Level. Curriculum links are being developed with local industries.

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For further details on any of these posts apply to The Principal.

Applications should be by letter enclosing full C.V. and the names of two referees. Closing date April 12th 1991.

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Salary will be appropriate to qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Letters of application should be sent, naming two referees, with a comprehensive C.V., not later than April 8th to:-

The Headmaster
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Matson House
Gloucester GL4 9DY

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The Governors of The King's School, Ely invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant on 1st September 1992 on the retirement of Mr. Hubert Ward.

The successful applicant will be a graduate and a communicant member of the Church of England.

Full particulars of the post may be obtained from the Bursar's Office, The King's School, Ely, Cambs CB7 4DB.

Applications must be sent to the Clerk to the Governors, c/o the Bursar's Office, to arrive not later than 3rd May 1991.

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The Governors of this preparatory school for girls invite applications for the post of Head upon the retirement of Miss J.M. Tyler.

Leaden Hall currently has about 200 girls, aged between 4 years and 13 years, day girls and boarders, about 25% being boarders.

Suitably qualified candidates should be communicant members of the Church of England.

To obtain further details please apply to:

The Chairman
Leaden Hall School
20 The Close
Salisbury, SP1 2EP

The closing date for applications is Sunday April 15th 1991.

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Your child's future in their hands

As teachers prepare for their annual union conferences, David Tytler looks at how the heated issues of pay, appraisals and the national curriculum threaten stability in the classroom

Parents' nerves will be tested again when the annual Easter round of teachers' conferences in the general surroundings of Scarborough and Bournemouth echoes to the extreme views of some of the delegates.

At Scarborough's Spa Centre, the hard left of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) will lock horns with the general secretary, Doug McAvoys, and the executive, as the leadership again repels calls for national strikes against local redundancies and a boycott of the national curriculum tests for seven-year-olds, which start in May.

Pay will be the big issue for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UWT), which meets next week in Bournemouth. There will also be calls to boycott teacher appraisals and the curriculum tests, but the union leadership regards the controversy over who will employ teachers as the crucial question.

A more measured approach will be found in Eastbourne at the annual assembly of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association (AMMA), an approach the government and some teacher leaders think the profession at large should adopt.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, says: "I would like teachers to see themselves as professional people first and trade unionists second, although it is perfectly reasonable to belong to a trade union."

Peter Dawson, the leader of the Professional Association of Teachers, which has only 39,000 members compared with the NUT's 190,000, says: "Most parents are horrified when they see teachers behaving at their worst. When they see the activists at the conferences, they naturally ask whether their children's teachers are like that. The answer, of course, is that they are not."

"The lunatics are far removed

from the NUT member in the classroom, but I think many are far removed from the leadership as well. I do not believe the NUT leopard has changed its spots."

Mr McAvoys is determined that the NUT should remain a legitimate trade union, but he accepts that the antics of the conference floor harm the public's opinion of teachers and, in the past two years, has done his best to move real decision-making away from the unrepresentative conference delegates and into the hands of individual members.

The 1990 pay debate, for example, was snatched from the annual conference and moved to a special conference in the autumn, based on consultation with members. The old arguments about flat-rate increases and a return to salaries comparable with those of middle managers will, nevertheless, be heard again this year. The conference may even approve strike calls, but Mr McAvoys believes there is no real stomach among the membership for widespread industrial action. Local strikes in protest at redundancies are another matter, however.

Mr McAvoys says members will feel frustrated, over-burdened and worried about the future of education. "But," he adds, "you have to ask them what they are prepared to do about it."

This year's conference has been cut by a day. It will be asked to approve a reduction in the number of delegates - about half of whom can be described as being hard-left - from 1,300 to 650 for future years.

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, is concerned that the unions may concentrate on the old arguments rather than tackling the changing situation in education. He believes the unions should be discussing the issue of teacher quality. "They would be well-advised to consider how we are going to recruit teachers of the right quality - the good honours



Applause, applause: delegates clap a speaker at last year's National Union of Teachers conference

graduates who will really contribute to raising standards," he says. "They must stop foghorning for 25 per cent pay increases and, instead, debate how this can be linked with teacher quality. The two go together and there is a bargain to be struck. People who provide extra resources are entitled to expect some proof of a positive return on their investment."

Peter Smith, the general secretary of the AMMA, bridges the suggestion. "I wouldn't mind teachers being paid for what they are already delivering," he says, "but committed teachers doing a good job have nothing to fear from performance being related to pay, provided it is fairly done."

Mr McAvoys says: "Teachers are already doing more than they have ever done, and to suggest that they should not be paid any more without doing even more would not get very far."

Mr Hart also fears that the unions will spend too much time lamenting the proposed changes in

running and funding the education service as a result of the government's decision to scrap the poll tax. "The unions should be considering how they are going to fit in with changes to the fundamental structure of the education system, either with this government or a Labour government," he says. "I am amazed that there is so little understanding of what is going on, quite apart from what might be in a Conservative election manifesto."

On this, all the main union leaders seem to agree. Mr Smith says: "We will have to watch very carefully what is being done over education funding and how it will affect the role of local education authorities, particularly if the number of grant maintained schools is greatly increased."

"There are implications for teachers' pay and how it would be funded. I think we may well find that when it comes to pay, the only device that would embrace

all the options would be a review body."

The NUT is also likely to debate the proposed changes and will be eager to know exactly how teachers' pay will be decided and where real control of education will lie. The NAS/UWT, with 120,000 members, was the only union to welcome the delay in the government's teachers' pay bill and to seek central payment of salaries under a pay review body. Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary, says: "The only time we have made any progress on teachers' pay in the past 30 years is when we have had a pay review body."

As the real debate on the future of education starts, with or without the co-operation of the unions, the ritual seaside dances begin. Parents viewing the wider elements among the country's teaching force will spot that the word "children" hardly passes their lips. Some might suggest that those teachers would do better turning their attention away from the staffroom and into the classroom.

Write your own school report

A group of 16-year-olds will soon be the first pupils to leave school with Records of Achievement, which they helped to prepare

Unlike school reports, destined in many households to end up in a forgotten corner of a cupboard, the blue Record of Achievement binders will have a life that will continue after school days on to employment and training.

The records, which a group of 16-year-olds will take when they leave school in May, will help employers to assess young job applicants. The RoA will be used to note achievements at college or university and progress in their new jobs or on training courses.

The RoA's value was recognised by the government last month when it introduced plans to issue them to all school leavers next year.

The pioneering scheme in Calderdale, West Yorkshire, owes much to work that started in the mid Eighties with the formation of the Northern Partnership for RoA, involving 37 local authorities and the Northern Examining Association.

The Calderdale scheme is directed by a small team, led by David Hawker, from the local education department, who believes he is in the middle of a revolution in education. He says: "For the first time, pupils have a chance to discuss with their teachers what is going to be said about them. This has led to radical changes in how teachers operate."

"Pupils are encouraged during the advance preparation of their RoA to decide on skills and qualifications they will require. They learn what they will need to do academically and vocationally. They can discuss entries that will be included under a section dealing with personal experiences, interests and achievements. I am convinced that it is a force for change. Teachers are talking to pupils and pupils are talking to teachers in a way many have never done before."

Mr Hawker says the Calderdale team has been commissioned by the National Council for Vocational Qualifications to produce a set of national standards for the management of RoA, and has been asked to advise other areas.

"There is widespread interest in the work we have completed so far," he adds.

The RoA scheme was started in Calderdale's 17 secondary schools

and five special schools in September 1989, after a pilot scheme in four secondary schools.

The Calderdale RoA team works closely with the local careers service and the local training and enterprise council (Tec), which represents business interests in training. The Tec has shown its commitment to the scheme by paying for RoA folders and funding a marketing campaign with local employers. The council is also co-sponsoring a national pilot project with the local education authority and the employment department to develop RoA for those aged 16 and over in education, training and work.

The project will be run by Sue Coe, a former deputy head, who will follow the development of sixth-formers, including those going on to further education, some pupils who are in employment and others who enrolled in training courses.

Comparing the new system with the old, Mrs Coe gave an example of a pupil who leaves school before taking O or A-level exams and later enrols in a college training course. Under the old system, the pupil's previous achievements would be lost and he or she would have to start again because of the fragmentary system of education and training. An RoA can fill this gap by listing previous education credits.

Colleges and employers will recognise RoAs, so records will still be valid as the former pupil's career develops.

Colleges and employers will also, using the help and advice given by teachers and tutors, have a continuing record of their aims and educational needs and thus be able to develop the youngsters' strengths and manage their job training.

Mr Hawker says: "Records of Achievement are an excellent tool for recruitment, and a means of encouraging staff development."

The team believes the uniform RoA could replace company personnel records. Mrs Coe says: "The RoA is an open-ended document. The young employee is likely to have contact with a supervisor or personal tutor who can continue the process begun when they were at school."

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UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES PROFESSOR IN COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE
Applications are invited for a Professorship in Computational Science. The holder of the Professorship is expected to provide academic leadership in developing both the teaching and research of the Department. Current interests within the Department's Computational Science Division are centred on software engineering and it is intended that the new appointment should complement this and extend the scope of the Division's research. Preference may be given to candidates with an interest in computer architecture or other hardware-related topics, but applications are invited from persons with interests in any field of Computational Science.
The salary of the Professor appointed will be negotiable.
Application forms and further particulars are available from the Director of Personnel Services, The University, College Gate, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AJ (telephone 0334 76161 ext 393/322) to whom completed forms accompanied by a letter of application and a CV should be returned to arrive not later than 22nd April 1991.
The University operates an Equal Opportunity Policy.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD COLLEGE LECTURESHIP IN PHILOSOPHY
Applications are invited from suitably qualified men and women for a three-year College Lectureship in Philosophy, with effect from 1st October 1991. Candidates should be prepared to teach Moral and Political Philosophy and the History of Philosophy, to engage in research, and to participate in undergraduate admissions.
Salary will be on an incremental scale of £12,086 (at age 26) - £14,036, together with certain benefits and allowances.
Applications, with details of career and publications and the names of three referees, should be sent to the College Secretary, St John's College, Oxford OX1 3JP, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The closing date for applications is 16th April.

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The School of Oriental and African Studies writes to request a Director of the newly created Centre for Development Studies who will have responsibility for the interdisciplinary study of development issues in the field.
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Informal enquiries may be made to Andrew Durand, Chairman of the European Centre or Jill Hill, Lecturer in French.

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Informal enquiries may be made to the Dean of Sciences, Mr E Shoensmith.

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Sixofus to head Eddery double

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

BY riding two winners at Doncaster last week Pat Eddery made a sound start to the defence of his title. At Folkestone today, the champion jockey can consolidate by landing a double on Cranfield Comet (1.45) and Sixofus (3.15).

The latter, who is my selection to win the Rochester Auction Graduation Stakes, took on some of the best last season when contesting the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket where he was far from disgraced in finishing sixth.

Later, his Newmarket-based trainer Ron Boss wisely decided that a drop in class at

Redcar was sensible and Sixofus duly enjoyed a morale-boosting victory in the hands of Eddery.

After that, it was a case of another step up the ladder to Doncaster where he again performed well, arguably to the limit of his ability, when finishing sixth in a listed race won by Snowy Owl.

While conceding that L'Ere will be hard to catch, in the hands of Alan Munro, if he is in the form that enabled him to win by five lengths at Wolverhampton last October, I still feel that Sixofus represents a better bet.

Eddery can begin the meeting by winning the Headcorn Maiden Stakes on Cranfield Comet for Jack Berry, whose

two-year-old runners so far this season has certainly performed with the requisite promise.

While the champion jockey will obviously be also hopeful of winning the Levy Board Maiden Stakes on Argento, who ran nicely enough in his only race at Salisbury last August when he finished fifth behind Bold Bostonian, Year Of The Dragon, from David Elsworth's in-form yard, is preferred, having finished second in his only race on Lingfield's all-weather track this year.

Furthermore, the going on the east Kent course is reported to be heavy and Year of the Dragon is by Sharpo, whose stock seemed to appre-

ciate plenty of cut in the ground, just as he did.

What on the subject of breeding, none of the King's Norton Handicap more than Winkski, who is by the 1985 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes winner, Petroski out of a mare by the 1969 Derby winner Blackleg.

Winkski was too backward to be trained seriously as a two-year-old and was moved on from Dick Hern's stable in the autumn to that of Clive Brittain.

But Britain has certainly done a good job in getting him organised on the all-weather track at Lingfield this year to the extent that he won his third and latest start there by

four lengths when ridden by an apprentice.

With Michael Roberts in the saddle this time, Winkski should easily prove capable of outstaying this opposition on this ground, and he is my nap.

Later in the afternoon, Latour, who contested much better races as a two-year-old, should also be equal to winning the Shorncliffe Maiden Stakes, thus completing a double for Britain and Roberts.

Finally, Possessive Plant, a decisive winner over the same course and distance 11 days ago, looks capable of winning the Warden Novices' Hurdle at Hexham, where I like the look of Caxton (4.15) and Kilknockin (4.45).

Watching brief advised on Garrison Savannah

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

BOTH Ladbrokes and Coral are now offering 7-1 with a run against Garrison Savannah repeating Corbett's 1983 win in the Grand National for Jenny Pimm.

At Newbury on Saturday, Mrs Pimm gave the latest state of play about her short-head winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup, "Garrison Savannah, entered this morning and is in good shape. But I wouldn't advise anyone to back him for the National before the day. His blood count is being monitored closely and it shows he's all right in ten days' time, he'll go to Liverpool."

"But we don't decide whether he'll go for the Martell Gold Cup or the National until nearer the time. The Martell has got £35,000 added and it looks like cutting up."

After racing at Newbury, Tracey Bailey rode last year's National winner, Mr Frisk, in a gallop with Won't Be Gone Long (Jamie Osborne) and Alphonso (Mark Ferrett).

Afterwards, Kim Bailey said that Mr Frisk and Marcus Armistead would be in the line-up at Aintree on Saturday week provided that ground conditions are not too testing.

Simon, Nicky Henderson was pleased with Won't Be Gone Long and said that Ten Of Spades, who had finished runner-up to Buckbee Boy in the Brown Chamberlain Chase earlier in the afternoon, would also run in the National.

Coral bet as follows: 7-1 Garrison Savannah (with a run), 1-11 Rags, 12-1 Bonanza Boy, 1-11 Rags, 12-1 Rags, 1-11 Segram and Twin Oaks.

As Bonanza Boy would need exceptionally heavy going to give him any chance of being considered a possible contender for the National, the 9-1 Rags and 16-1 Segram appear to offer the best value at present.

On the classic front, all the action continues to centre around Desert Sun for the 2,000 Guineas. Put into the betting at 33-1 earlier in the winter, Henry Cecil's impressive winner of his only start at Doncaster last October, has been steadily supported in recent weeks.

Further flurry of activity on Saturday saw Desert Sun cut again from 9-1 to 7-1 by Ladbrokes. At this price the colt is joint-favourite with Marj.

The chief reason for the latest move is the sparkling style of Desert Sun's gallop at Newmarket on Saturday, when, in



First lady: Alex Greaves holds her trophy aloft after becoming the first woman jockey to win the William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster on Saturday.

den by Pat Eddery, the three-year-old worked particularly well with Volksraad and the four-year-old, Halston Prince.

However, Cecil put matters into perspective yesterday. "It is premature to back Desert Sun at this price. Of course, he could be a nice horse, but hasn't yet been put to any serious test on the racecourse or at home."

The champion trainer added that the Craven Stakes is a likely target for Desert Sun, who is to be ridden by Eddery because he is owned by Prince Khalid Al Saud, a relation of Khalid Abdullah.

The trainer also had news of Peter Davies, currently 14-1 to give Cecil his third Derby victory after finishing third in the 2,000 Guineas.

Trophy as a two-year-old. "He's very lively. I'd like to give him a racecourse gallop at Newbury during the Greenham meeting. We'll be thinking in terms of the Craven Stakes, the John Porter Stakes at York or the Lingfield Derby Trial."

Barry Hills has been quicker off the mark than his fellow top trainers, most of whom will not be in serious action until the Craven meeting.

At Doncaster on Saturday, the victories of Bandol and Warm

Feeling, coupled with that of Collins Avenue on the Friday, saw the trainer boast a 100 per cent record from his first three runners. Pat Eddery's strength was something at which to marvel as the rising champion drove Bandol to a narrow win in the Doncaster Exhibition Centre Stakes.

Warm Feeling showed a fine burst of speed for the trainer's son, Michael, when outpacing Mountain Kingdom in the Tetley Bitter Stakes. "We will now be looking at races like the John Porter Stakes, the Craven Stakes and the Yorkshire Cup," said Hills.

Despite having made such a splendid start to the campaign, Hills's only runner in the immediate future will be his 2,000 Guineas candidate, Marcham, in Kempton Park's Easter Stakes on Saturday.

On Saturday, Lord Of Tumors, Hills's runner in the William Hill Lincoln, ran well before weakening to finish seventh behind the comfortable winner, Amenable.

The 22-year-old Alex Greaves, better known as the queen of the Fibresand, showed remarkable courage and judgement when bringing the 22-1 winner from a long way back to beat the strongly-fancied St Niman and Stand On The Run.

Although the second and third were drawn seven and two respectively, Amenable, drawn 23, made it up to the centre of the track. "I've always said that a lot of nonsense was being talked about the draw after the new drainage works," said the winning trainer, David Barron. "Amenable would have won wherever he was drawn. He was the best horse at the weights and certainly one of the fittest."

For the record, Greaves, having now ridden 69 winners including two of those confined to apprentices, now needs another eight successes to lose her 31b allowance.

22-1 winner
The Times Private Handicapper (Gerald Hubbard) top-rated Amenable, the 22-1 winner of Saturday's Lincoln Handicap.

Options kept open to pursue Aliya case

A NEWSPAPER report that the Aga Khan is to re-open the controversial Aliya case in the High Court is premature (Michael Seely writes).

Yesterday, Matthew McCloy, the solicitor acting for the Aga Khan over the matter of the subsequently disqualified 1989 Oaks winner, said: "This is a holding operation. If the Aga Khan wishes to pursue the matter, he had to lodge a formal application with the High Court before the deadline expired last Wednesday. It is now in the hands of the High Court and will come up in the fullness of time, possibly six to nine months."

ALTHOUGH 14 went to the top for the first division of The Times Championship qualifier at the Grafton point-to-point on Saturday, it was apparent that two of the top four were seriously concerned.

Radical Views, owned by Ian McKie, made most of the running to the eighth fence, but on the ninth, he was overtaken by the other three.

Credit Cut looks likely to go to the top of the race. It would not be his first victory, as 13 months ago when trained by Oliver Sherwood, he put up a promising performance in a novice chase on this course.

In the other division, Alan Hill and the Derek Smith-owned Wedding Song had the race to themselves. Taking up the running at the third fence, the combination was well clear before halfway and won by 25 lengths from Paul Tanno on Gold Ace. The disappointing favourite, Discus Thrower, was 20 lengths further away third.

The rest of the meeting belonged mainly to James Tarry, who had been in no mood to go to the meeting after spending the morning rounding up errant cows. His father, however, persuaded him to have the upper hand on Aden Royale.

They loaded the box with two other maidens, Never Carry and Fine Lace, who both won.

Point-to-point results page 30

Saturday's results

Doncaster

2.01, Parlo Home (11-10) to 2, East Low (1-1), 3, Auction King (22-1), 4, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1, 13-1, 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 17-1, 18-1, 19-1, 20-1, 21-1, 22-1, 23-1, 24-1, 25-1, 26-1, 27-1, 28-1, 29-1, 30-1, 31-1, 32-1, 33-1, 34-1, 35-1, 36-1, 37-1, 38-1, 39-1, 40-1, 41-1, 42-1, 43-1, 44-1, 45-1, 46-1, 47-1, 48-1, 49-1, 50-1, 51-1, 52-1, 53-1, 54-1, 55-1, 56-1, 57-1, 58-1, 59-1, 60-1, 61-1, 62-1, 63-1, 64-1, 65-1, 66-1, 67-1, 68-1, 69-1, 70-1, 71-1, 72-1, 73-1, 74-1, 75-1, 76-1, 77-1, 78-1, 79-1, 80-1, 81-1, 82-1, 83-1, 84-1, 85-1, 86-1, 87-1, 88-1, 89-1, 90-1, 91-1, 92-1, 93-1, 94-1, 95-1, 96-1, 97-1, 98-1, 99-1, 100-1, 101-1, 102-1, 103-1, 104-1, 105-1, 106-1, 107-1, 108-1, 109-1, 110-1, 111-1, 112-1, 113-1, 114-1, 115-1, 116-1, 117-1, 118-1, 119-1, 120-1, 121-1, 122-1, 123-1, 124-1, 125-1, 126-1, 127-1, 128-1, 129-1, 130-1, 131-1, 132-1, 133-1, 134-1, 135-1, 136-1, 137-1, 138-1, 139-1, 140-1, 141-1, 142-1, 143-1, 144-1, 145-1, 146-1, 147-1, 148-1, 149-1, 150-1, 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